

WEIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE

PLANET COMICS

MAY

No. 18

10¢

"THE
VAMPIRE-MEN
OF NEPTUNE"

WITH

REEF RYAN

BATTLING MORDAS KRAD'S
FIENDS TO SAVE
THE FLOATING
CITADEL'S
LOVELY
PRINCESS!

AURO—LORD
OF JUPITER

THE STAR PIRATE
MARS, GOD OF WAR

NORGE BENSON

THE
RED COMET

FLINT
BAKER



ZOLNE
ROWICH

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**FLINT
BAKER**



3 BULL'S-EYE HITS!



Thrilling
Amazing
ADVENTURES
OF
SHEENA
QUEEN OF
THE JUNGLE
64
SMASH
PAGES
ALL
BRAND-NEW!
NO
REPRINTS!

Everybody
IS TALKING
ABOUT—
RANGERS OF
FREEDOM
—
PRIVATE
ELMER PIPPIN
—
JEEP
MILARKEY
—
DON STUART
and the
FAR EAST
RANGERS
—
DEFENSE
KIDS—
AND MANY
OTHERS!



Get
last!
A COMPLETE
BOOK OF
WAMBI
JUNGLE BOY
IN
Sensational
DANGER-
PACKED
JUNGLE
ACTION!
Never
before
printed.

NOW AT ALL NEWSSTANDS!

LOOK FOR THE
BULL'S EYE
WHEN YOU BUY



A
FICTION
HOUSE
MAGAZINE

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 19, JULY) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND MAY 10th.



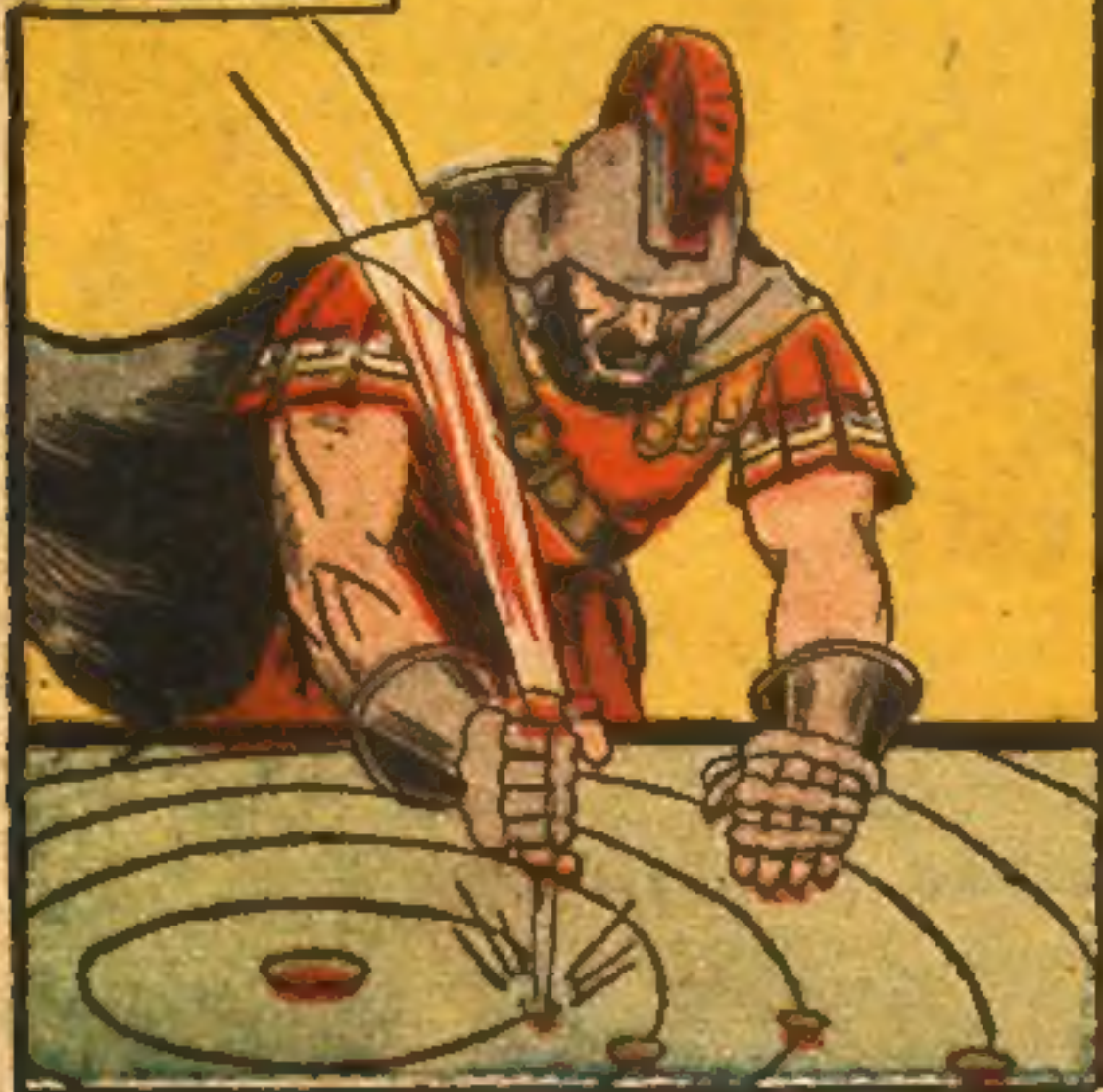
MARS

GOD OF WAR

BY ROSS GALLUN

DRIVES A CRUMBLING CIVILIZATION TOWARD DESTRUCTION UNDER THE GRINDSTONE OF HIS TERRIFYING HUMAN PRESS.

STABBING WILDLY AT THE MAP OF THE UNIVERSE, MARS BURIES THE POINT OF THE DAGGER IN SALUS, A SMALL PLANETOID IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!



HERE IS WHERE MY OPERATIONS START! BECAUSE OF ITS DISTANCE FROM THE SUN, SALUS IS JUST PASSING THROUGH THE MESOZIC ERA OF LIFE.



ON SALUS - CONTENTED WOMEN PERFORM THEIR DAILY TASKS.



AN OLD WOMAN SITS IN THE SUN AND MEDITATES.

FOR GENERATIONS THE WOMEN HAVE DONE THEIR WORK AND THE MEN HAVE PROTECTED THEM. IT IS WELL!

WOMAN, MARINA, WILL BE MY FIRST VICTIM! I WILL TAKE CONTROL OF HER BODY AND TEACH HER THE DEVIL'S PRAYER!



AS THE SPIRIT OF MARS ENTERS MARINA, A HUNTER PAUSES AT THE WELL.

I HAVE BEEN HUNTING, GIVE ME A DRINK.

WITH PLEASURE!



YOU WILL FURNISH THE INGREDIENTS FOR THE DRINK OF HATE!

OH!!



SHAVE HIS HEAD AND GIVE ME THE HAIR! AFTER I HAVE SPOKEN THE DEVIL'S PRAYER OVER IT, IT WILL DISSOLVE IN OUR WINE. WE'LL DRINK THE DEVIL'S BREW!



STIRRED BY THE HYPNOTIC WORDS OF MARINA, THE WOMEN CROWD AROUND TO OBEY. SHE MUMBLES OVER THE HAIR AND...

DRINK! DRINK! FORM YOURSELVES INTO BANDS AND HURL THE MEN INTO PRISON!

MARINA IS RIGHT! WE WILL NO LONGER BE SLAVES!

MARINA WILL BE OUR LEADER!

WE WILL KILL ALL WHO OPPOSE US!



THE WORDS OF MARINA RINGING IN THEIR EARS AND THE DEVIL'S BREW RACING IN THEIR VEINS, THE WOMEN BECOME AN INCENSED MOB.



TO THE TEMPLE!
...FOLLOW ME...

AT THE TEMPLE.



HALT!...
STAND BACK!

FORWARD!
HE CANNOT
STOP US!

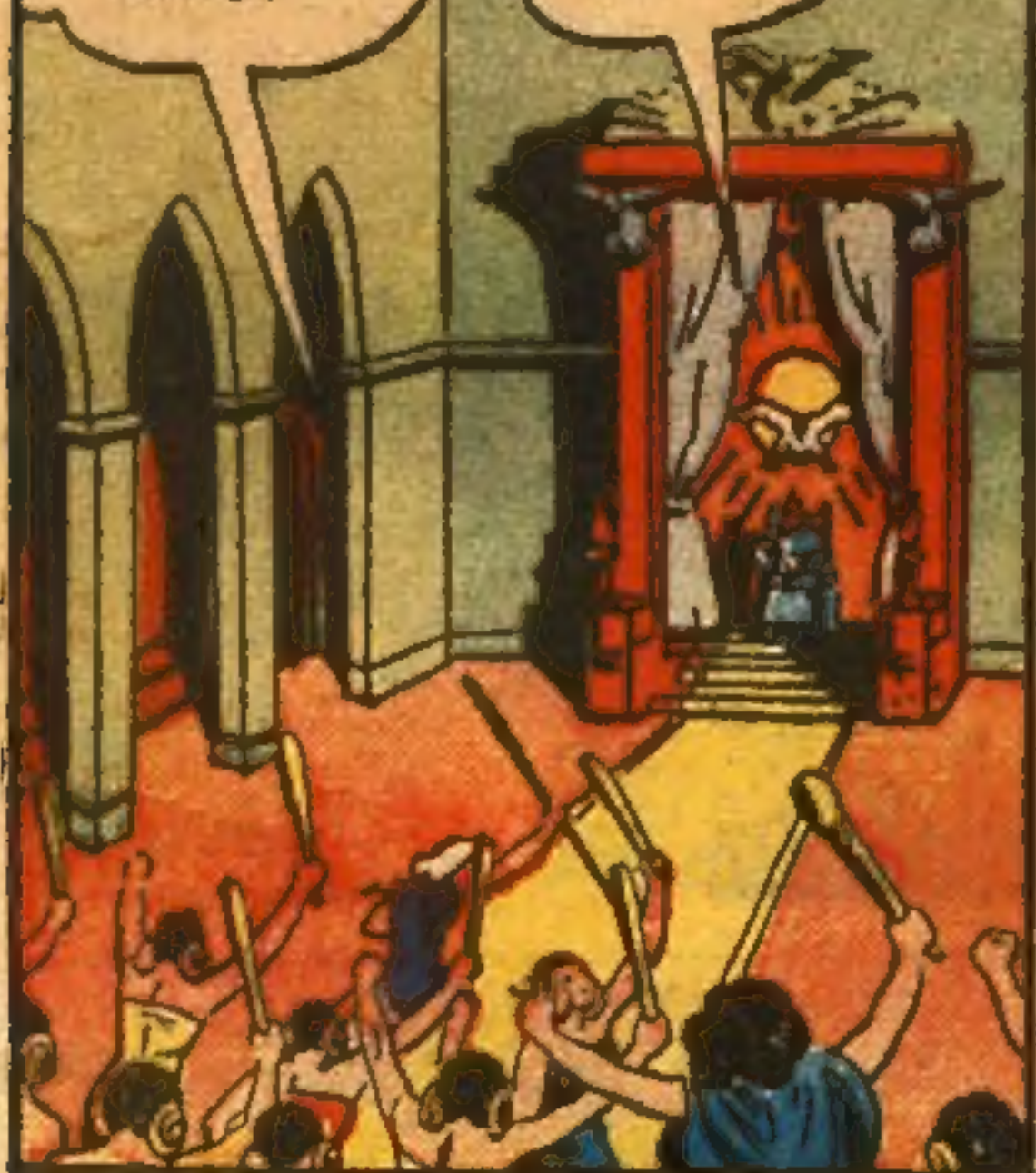
AWAY WITH THE GUARDS!



OHNNH!

THE KING!
SEIZE THE
KING!

WH-
WHAT!



STOP! WHAT IS
THE MEANING
OF THIS?...

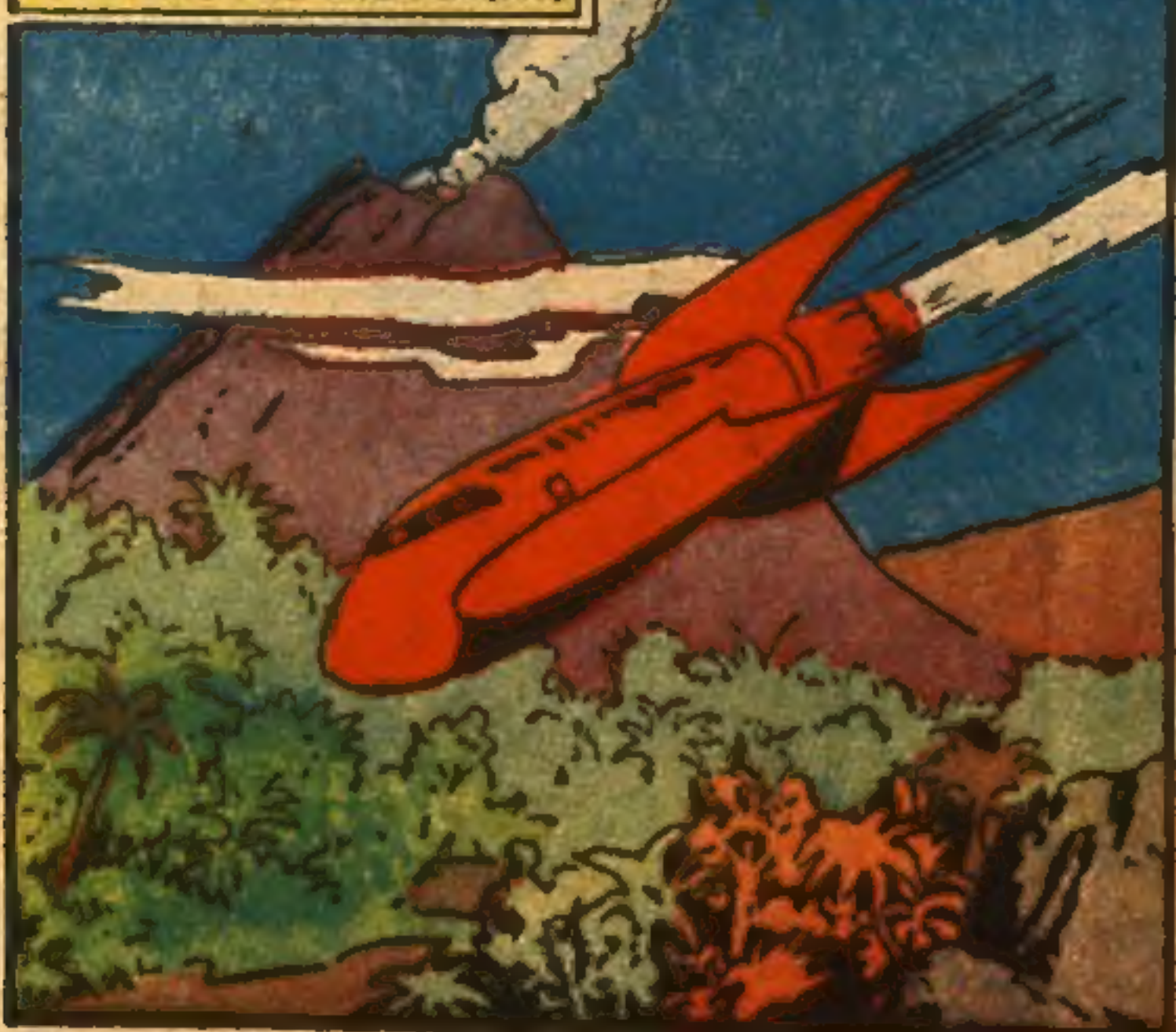


TO THE
SQUARE WITH
HIM!

THROW THE MEN INTO PRISON!...
COMB THE KINGDOM!...NONE
WILL ESCAPE US!



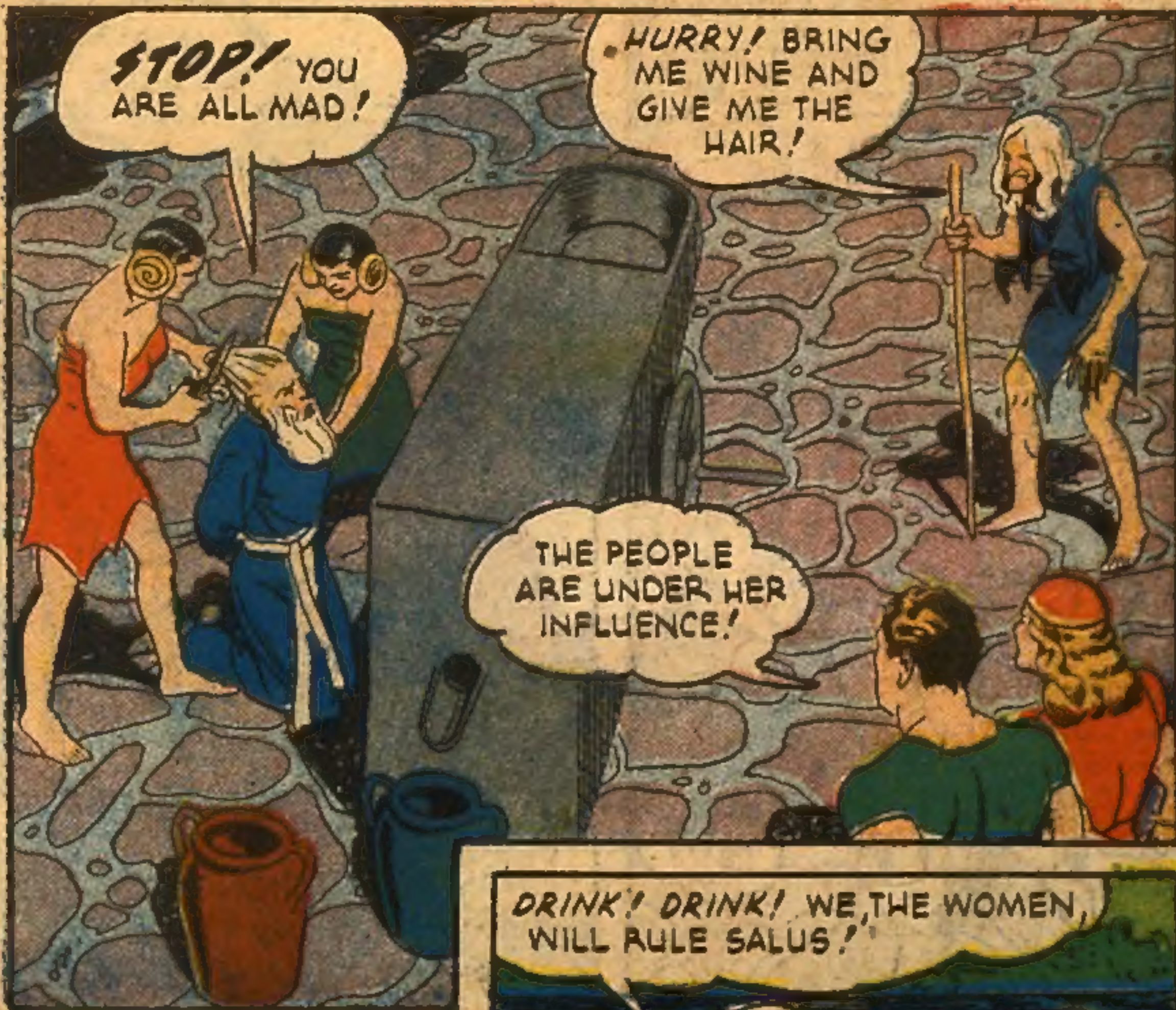
MEANWHILE - AS THE REVOLUTION
BREAKS WITH ALL ITS FURY, A SPACE
SHIP, FROM EARTH, GLIDES DOWN
ON THE PLANETOID...

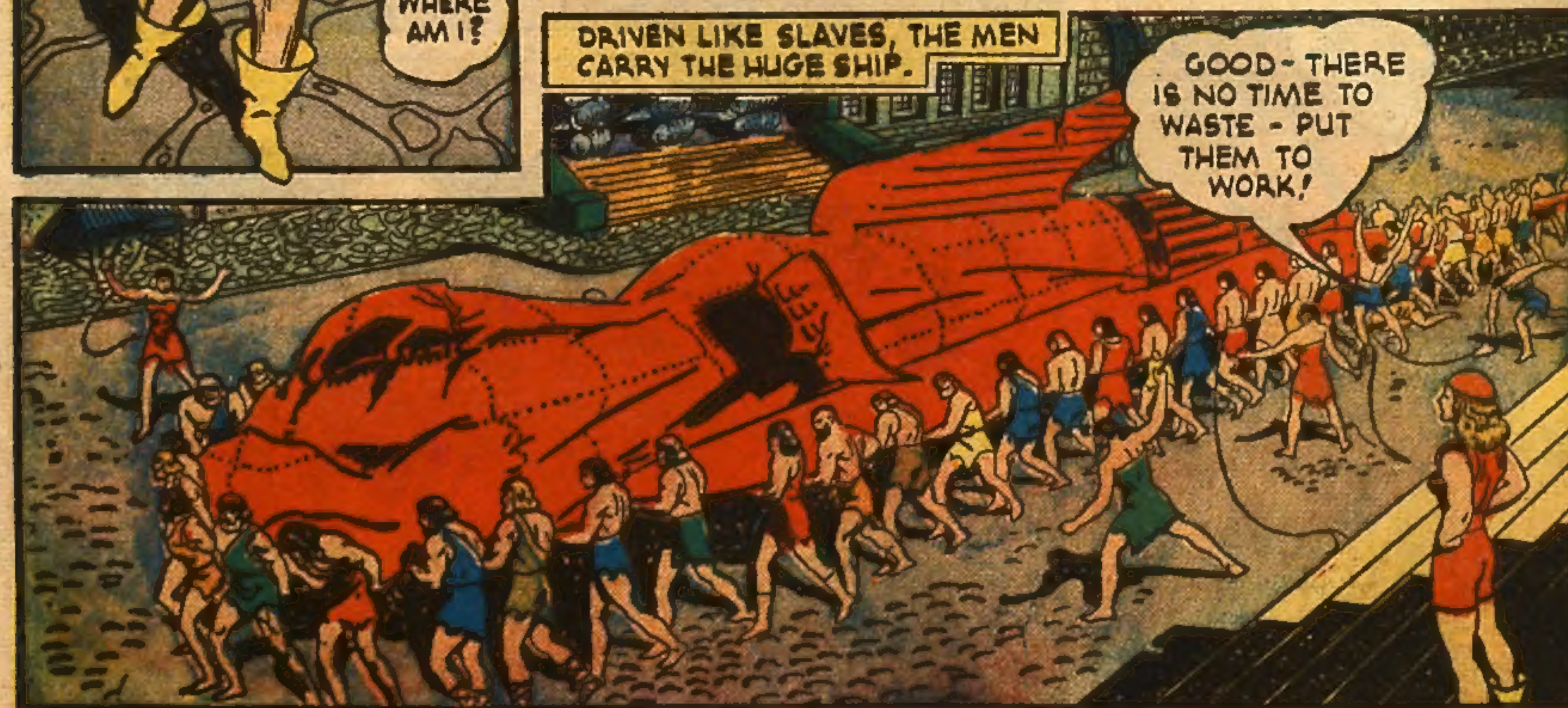


...AND IS SIGHTED BY A
PREHISTORIC MONSTER,
LURKING IN ITS LAIR.







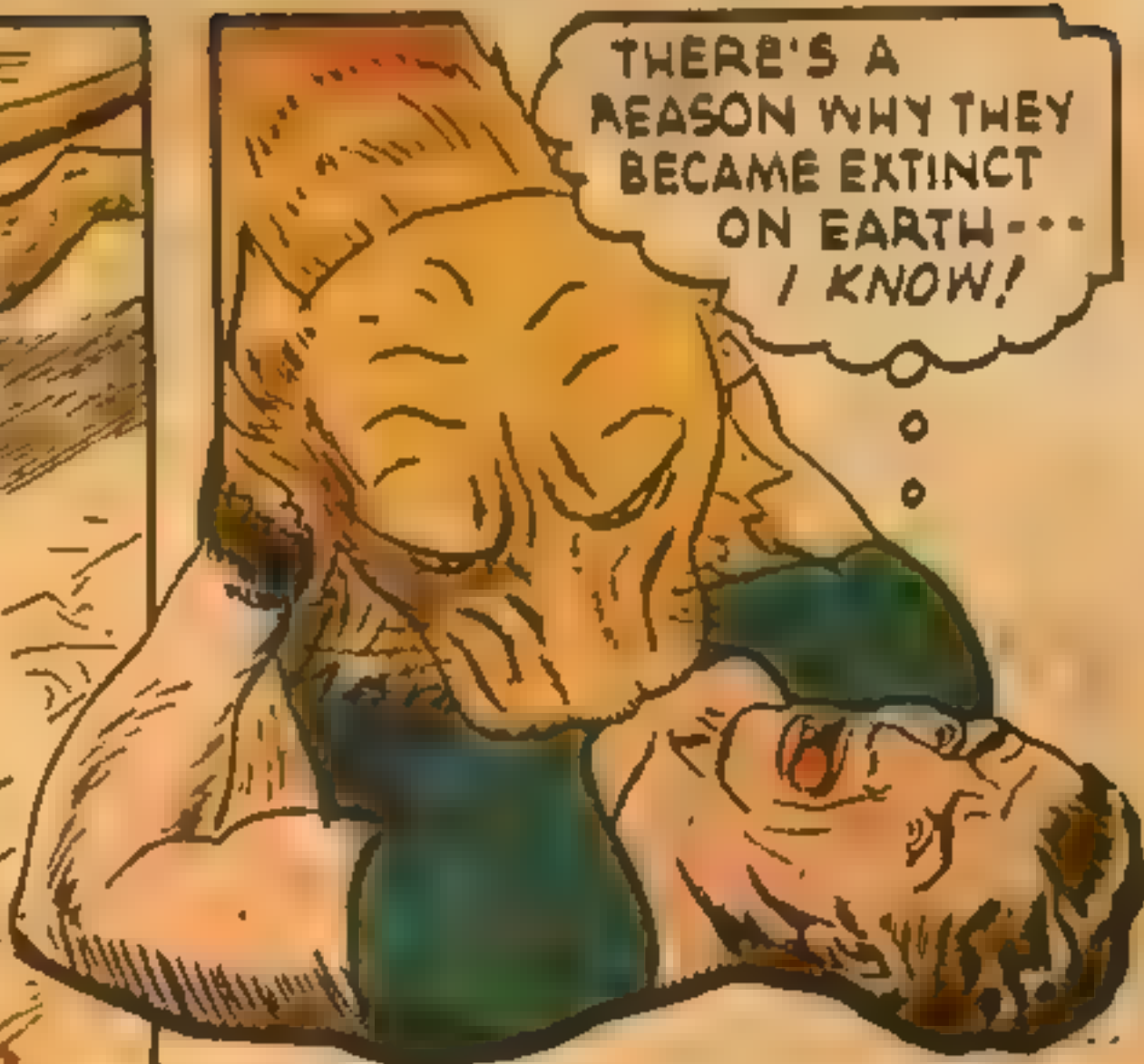




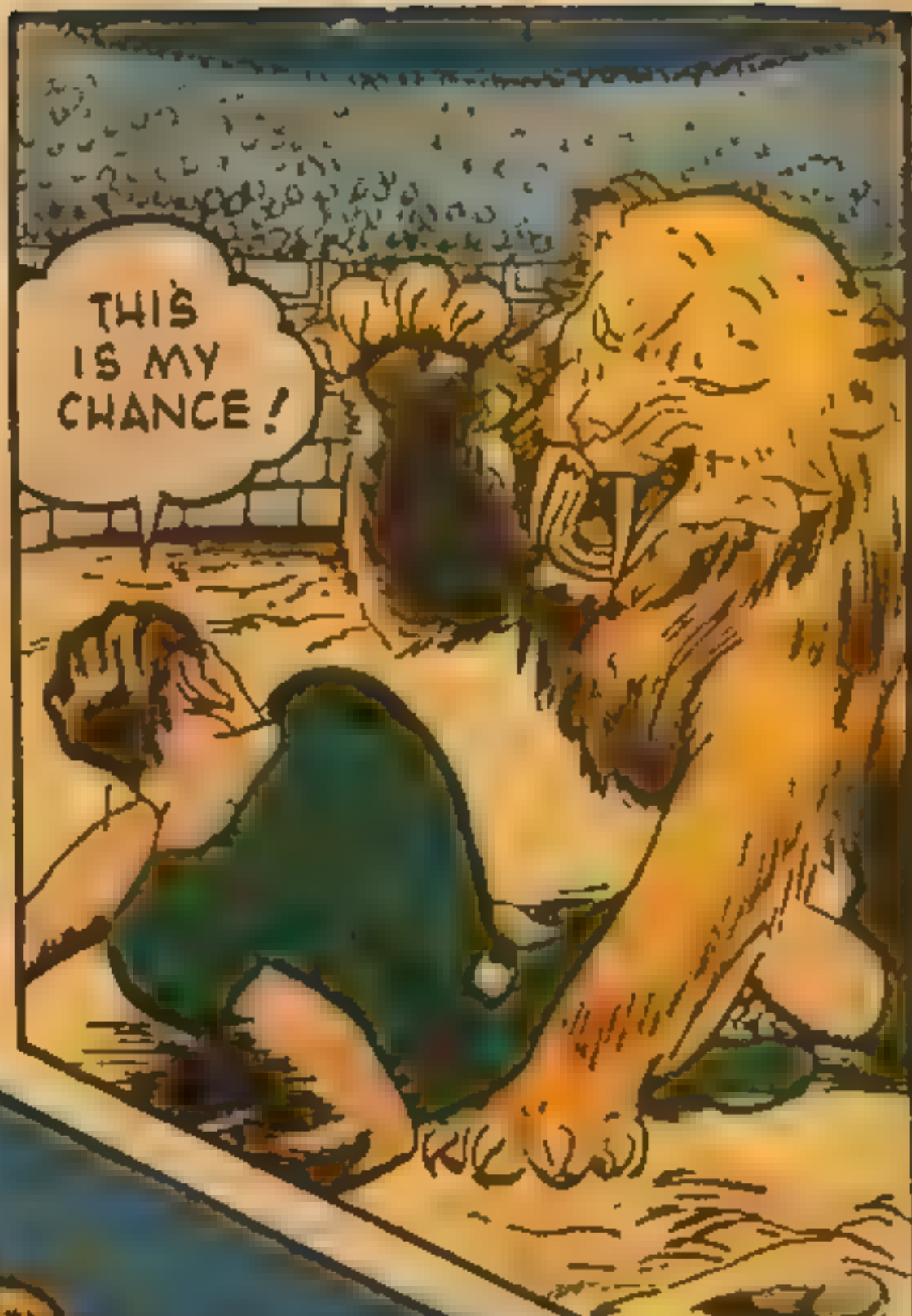
THE TIGER LEAPS ON BRUCE.



THERE'S A REASON WHY THEY BECAME EXTINCT ON EARTH... I KNOW!



THIS IS MY CHANCE!



THEY DIDN'T SURVIVE BECAUSE OF THEIR FRAGILE BACK BONE!

BRUCE SPRINGS TO HIS FEET AND LEAPS ON THE TIGER'S BACK!



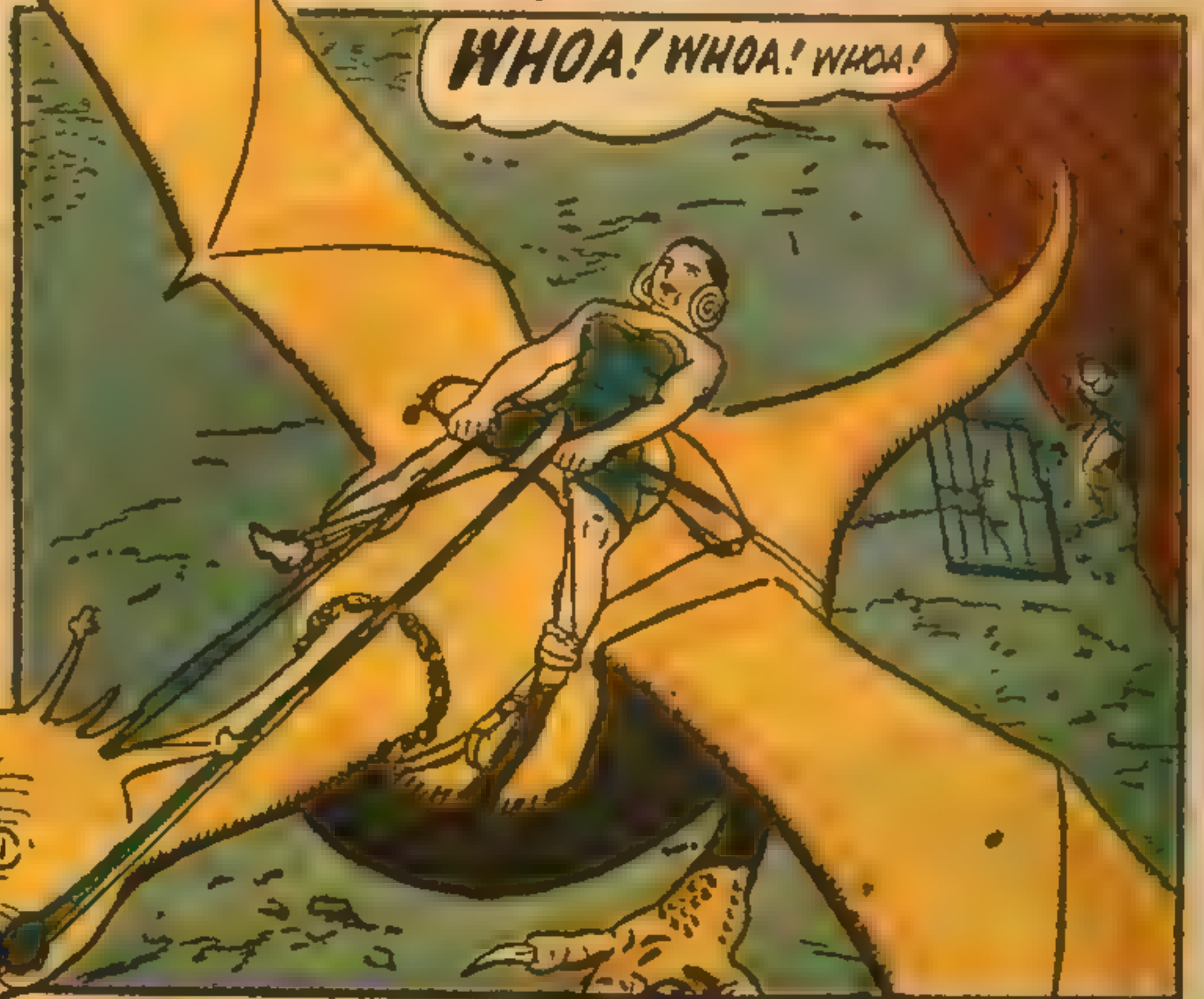
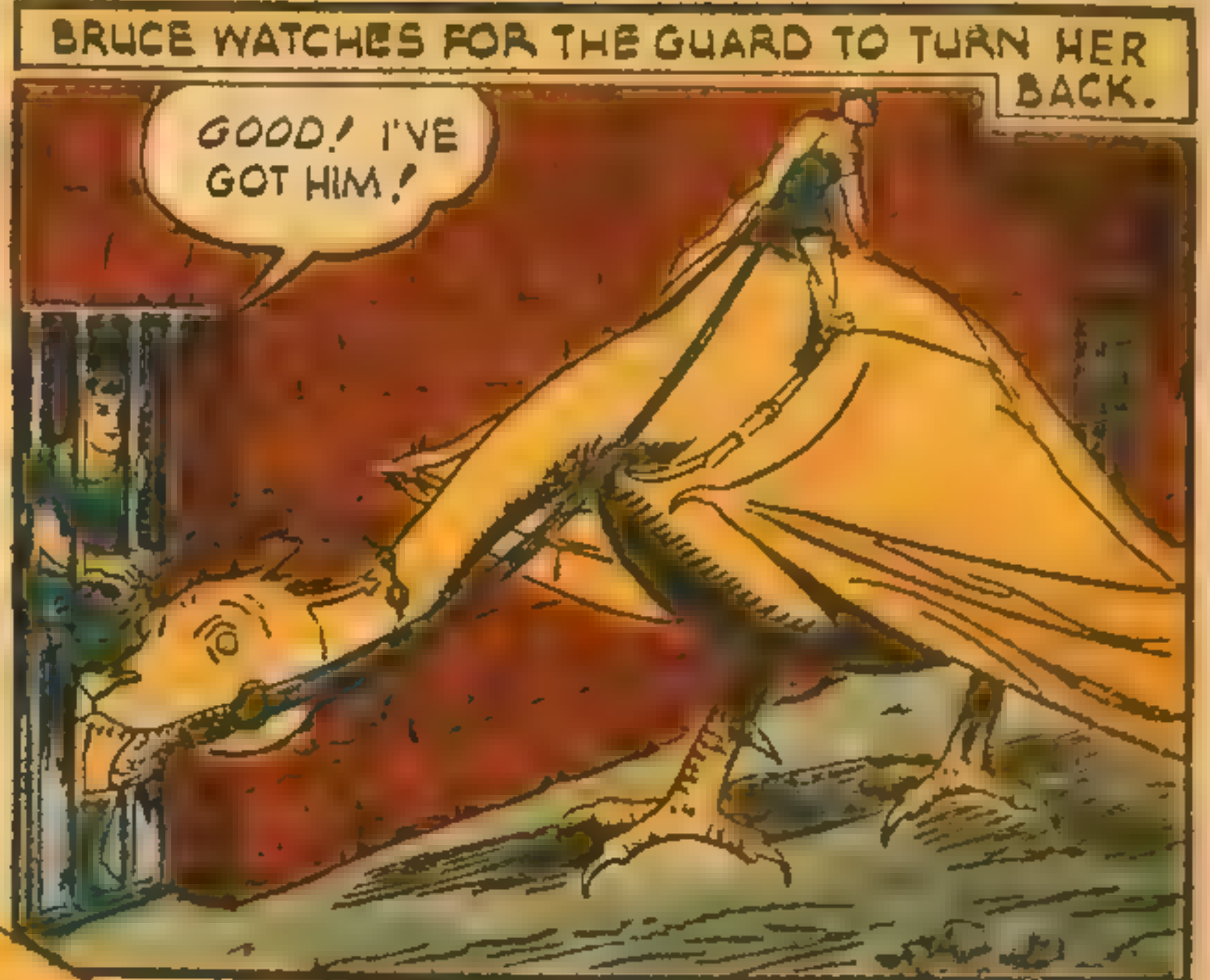
SNAP

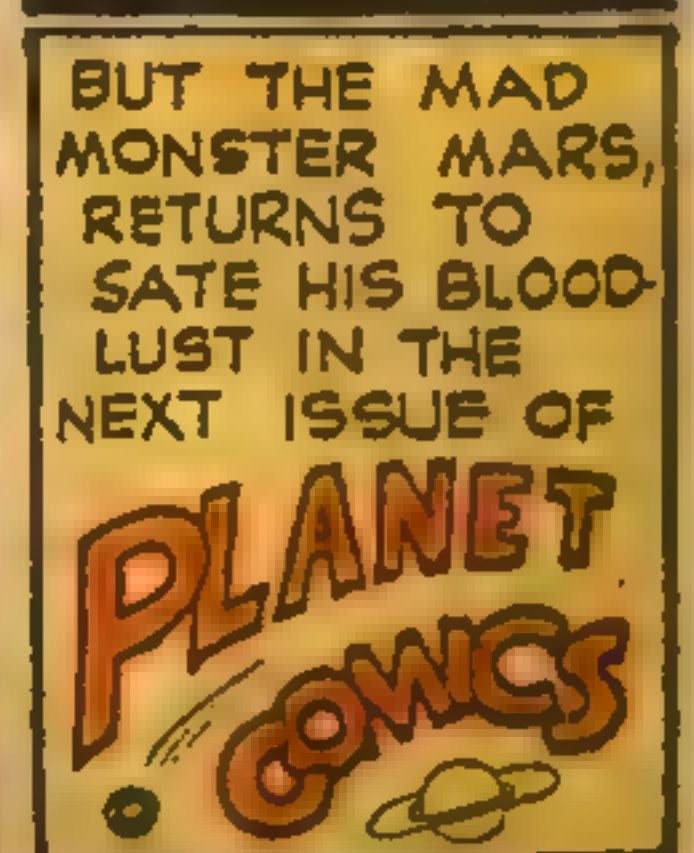
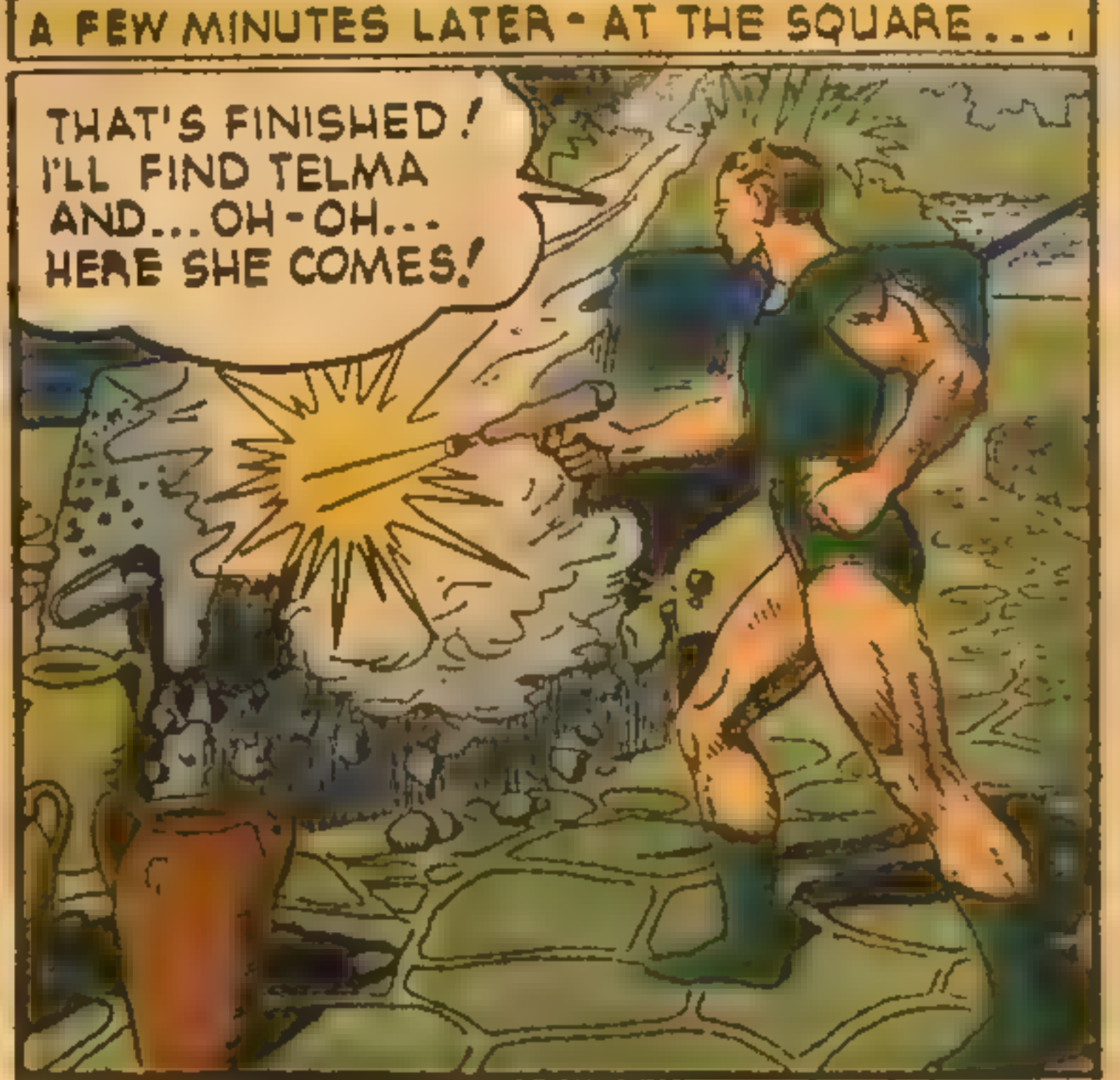
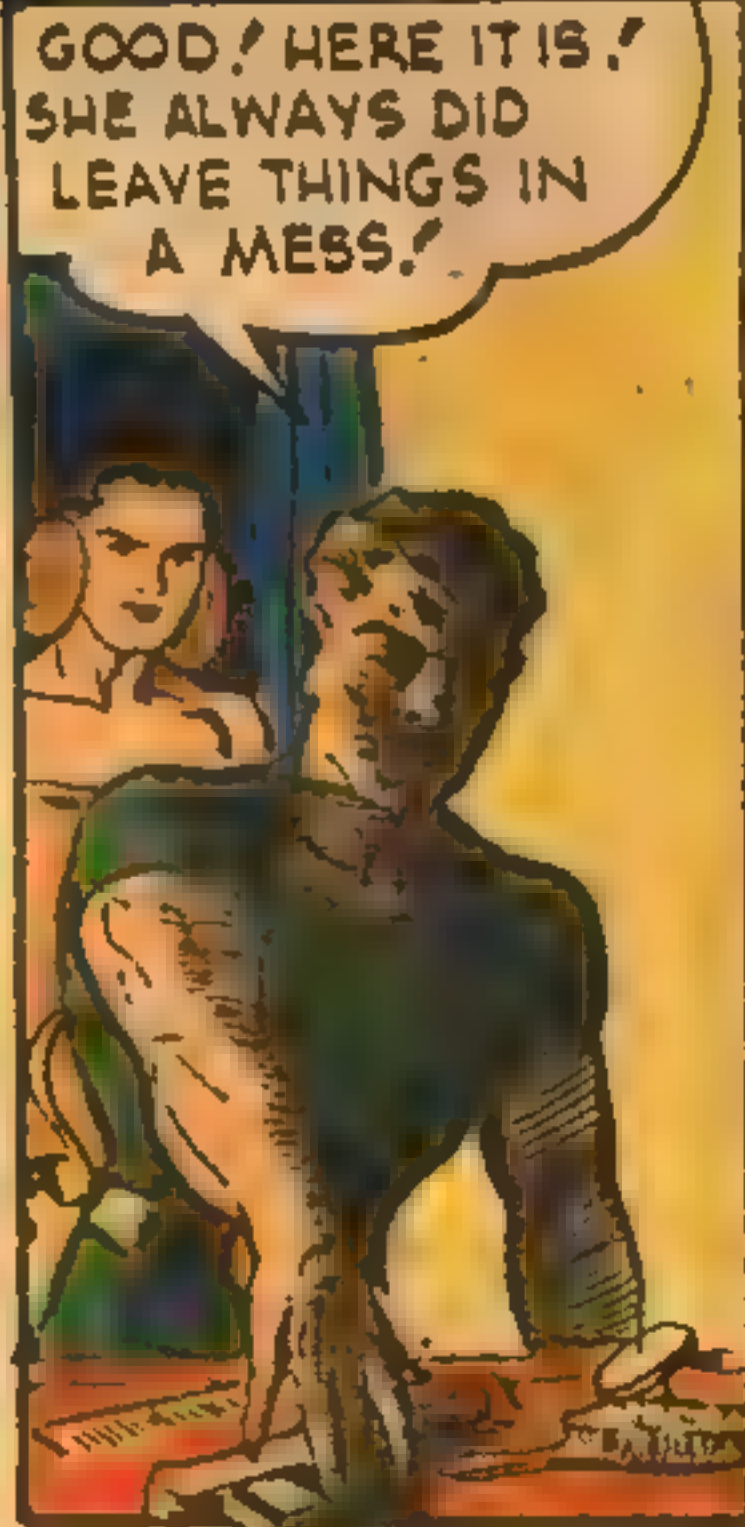
YEOWWW!



TOMORROW, BEFORE WE START THE INVASION TRIP, WE'LL DRINK THE DEVIL'S BREW MADE OF HIS HAIR! TAKE HIM AWAY TO HIS CELL!







RED COMET

By
Tatcher

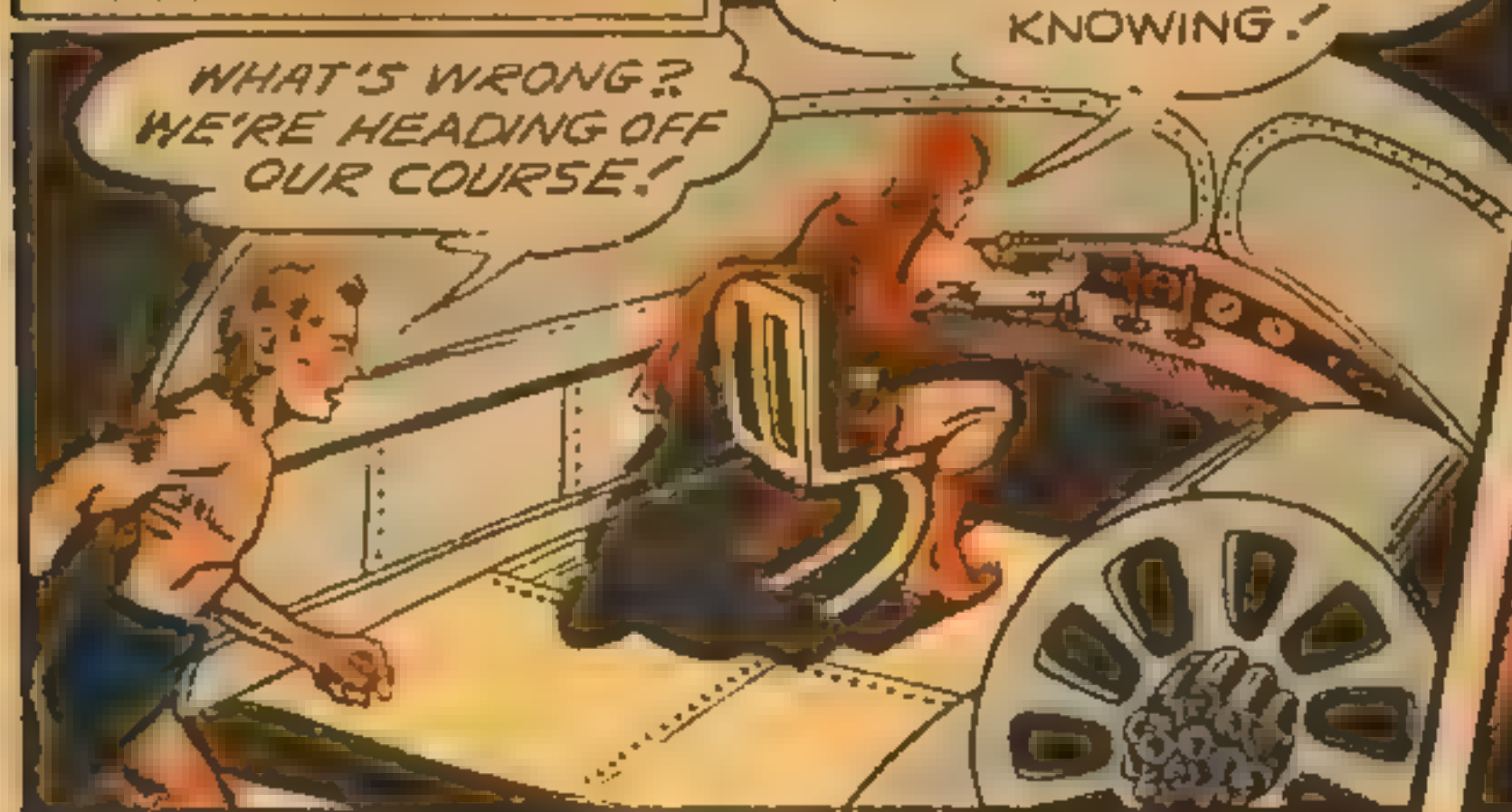
Smashes INTO
ACTION AGAINST
RANDI, THE POWER
MAD EMPEROR OF
RANDUN, AND HIS
WINGED MEN OF
CONQUEST.



DOLORES AND RUSTY ACCOMPANY RED
COMET ON A GOOD WILL CALL TO THE
PLANET MERCURY. THEN HIS SHIP
FAILS TO RESPOND TO THE CONTROLS AND
THEY SPEED MADLY OFF THEIR COURSE...



AS RED COMET FIGHTS DEPERATELY WITH LEVERS AND DIALS, RUSTY COMES IN



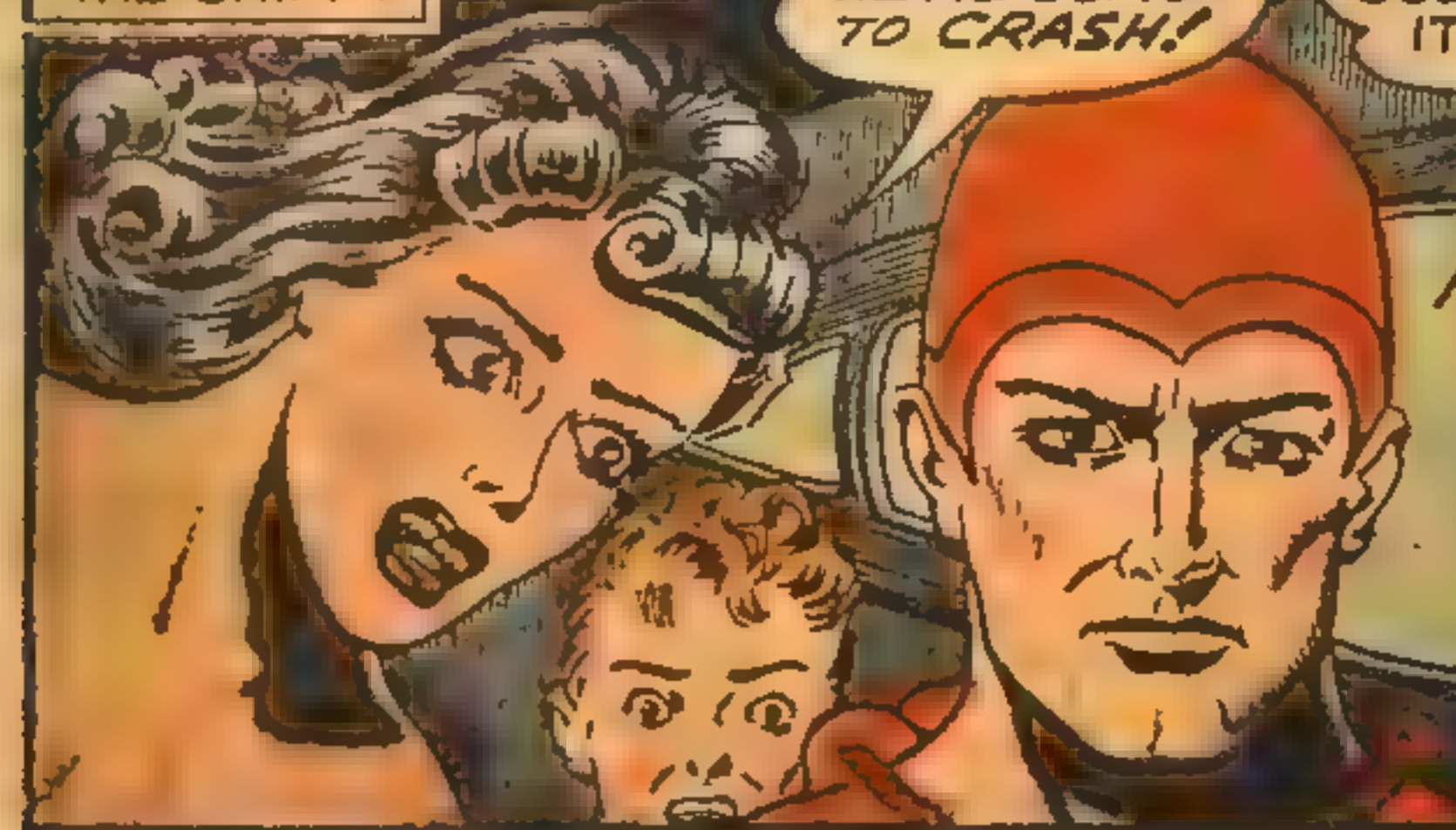
WHAT'S WRONG? WE'RE HEADING OFF OUR COURSE!

THAT'S RIGHT... AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT... TRY AND KEEP DOLORES FROM KNOWING!

AT EVER INCREASING SPEED THEY PLUNGE TOWARD AN UNKNOWN PLANETOID



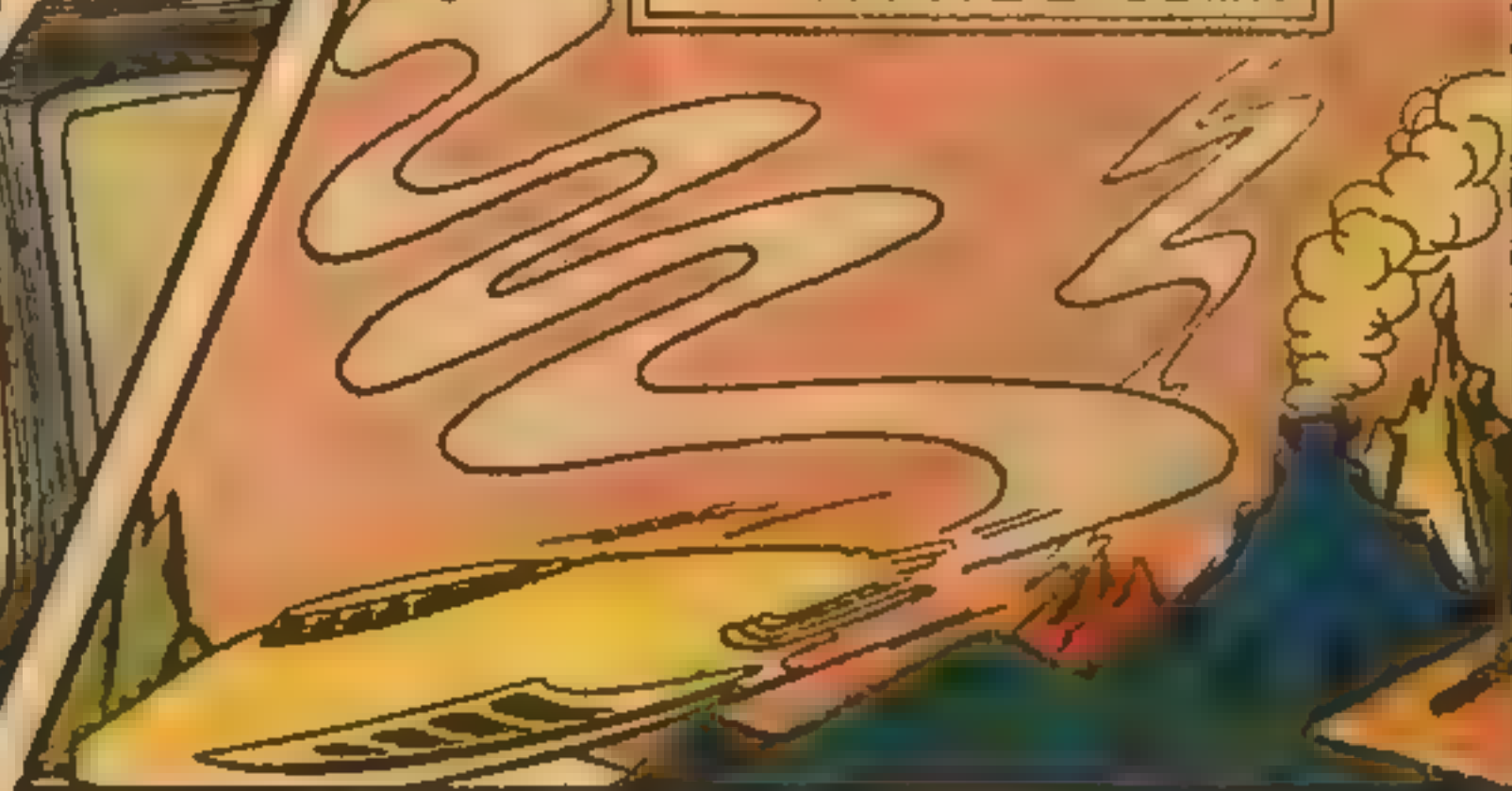
THEN DOLORES COMES TO THE FRONT OF THE SHIP...



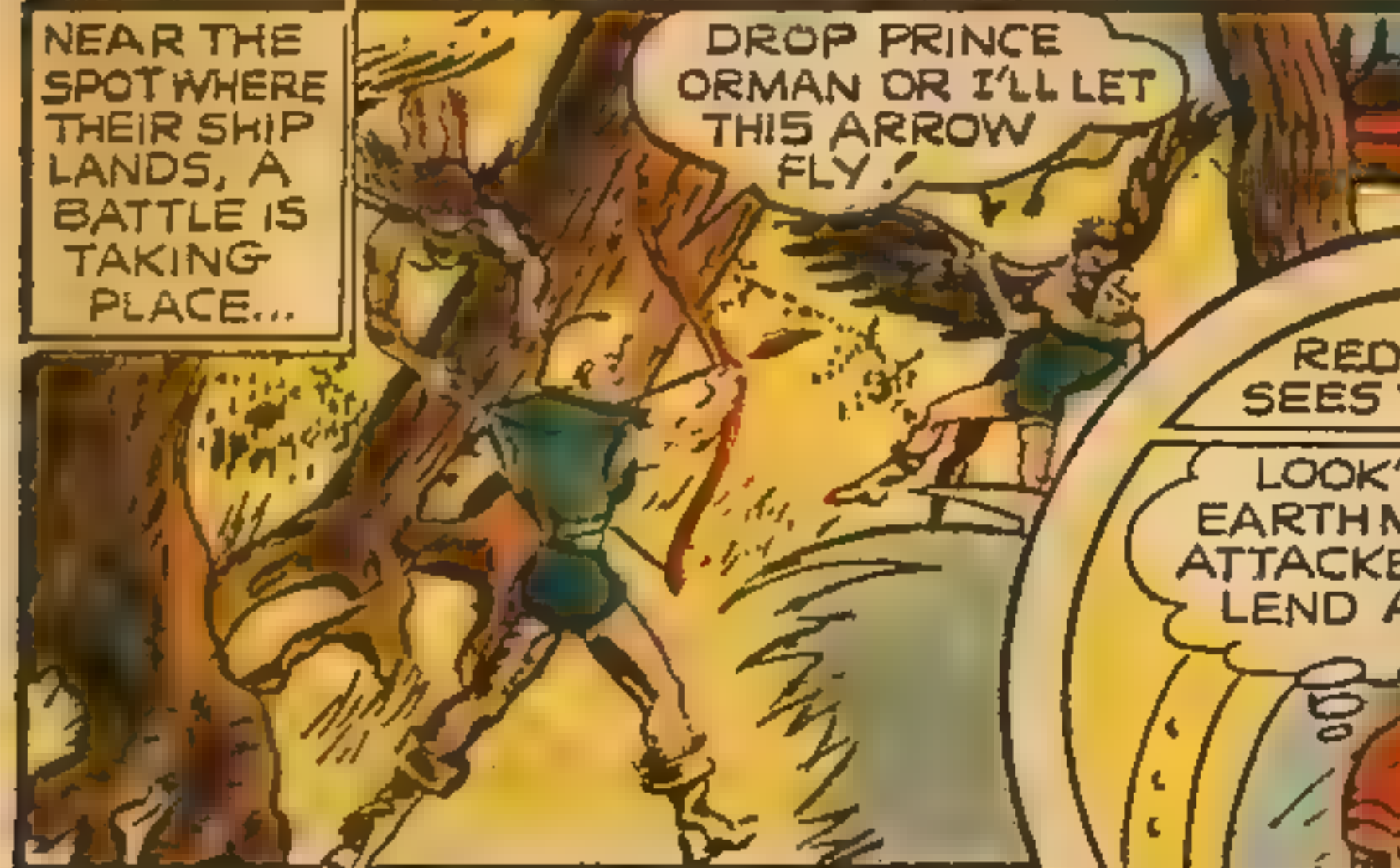
OH! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

MIRACLES STILL HAPPEN, DOLORES! TAKE IT EASY!

AND A MIRACLE DOES HAPPEN! THE CONTROLS RESPOND, AND IN JERKS, TO CHECK THEIR SPEED, THEY DESCEND ON A STRANGE GLOBE...



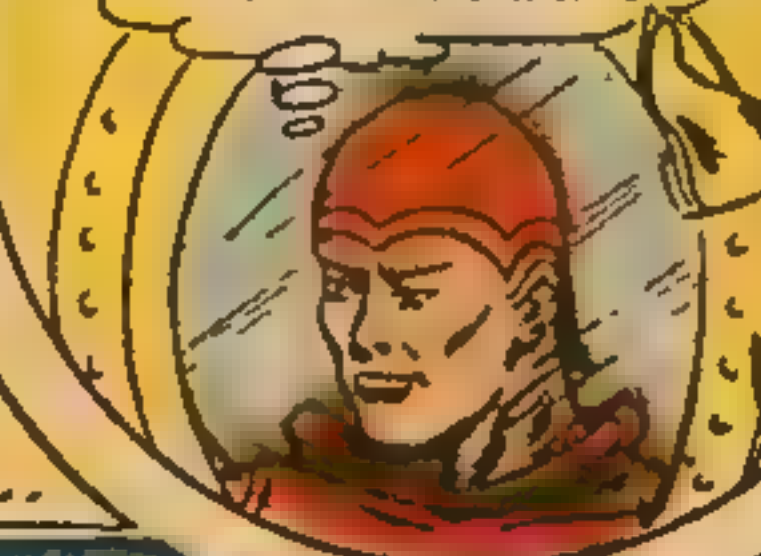
NEAR THE SPOT WHERE THEIR SHIP LANDS, A BATTLE IS TAKING PLACE...



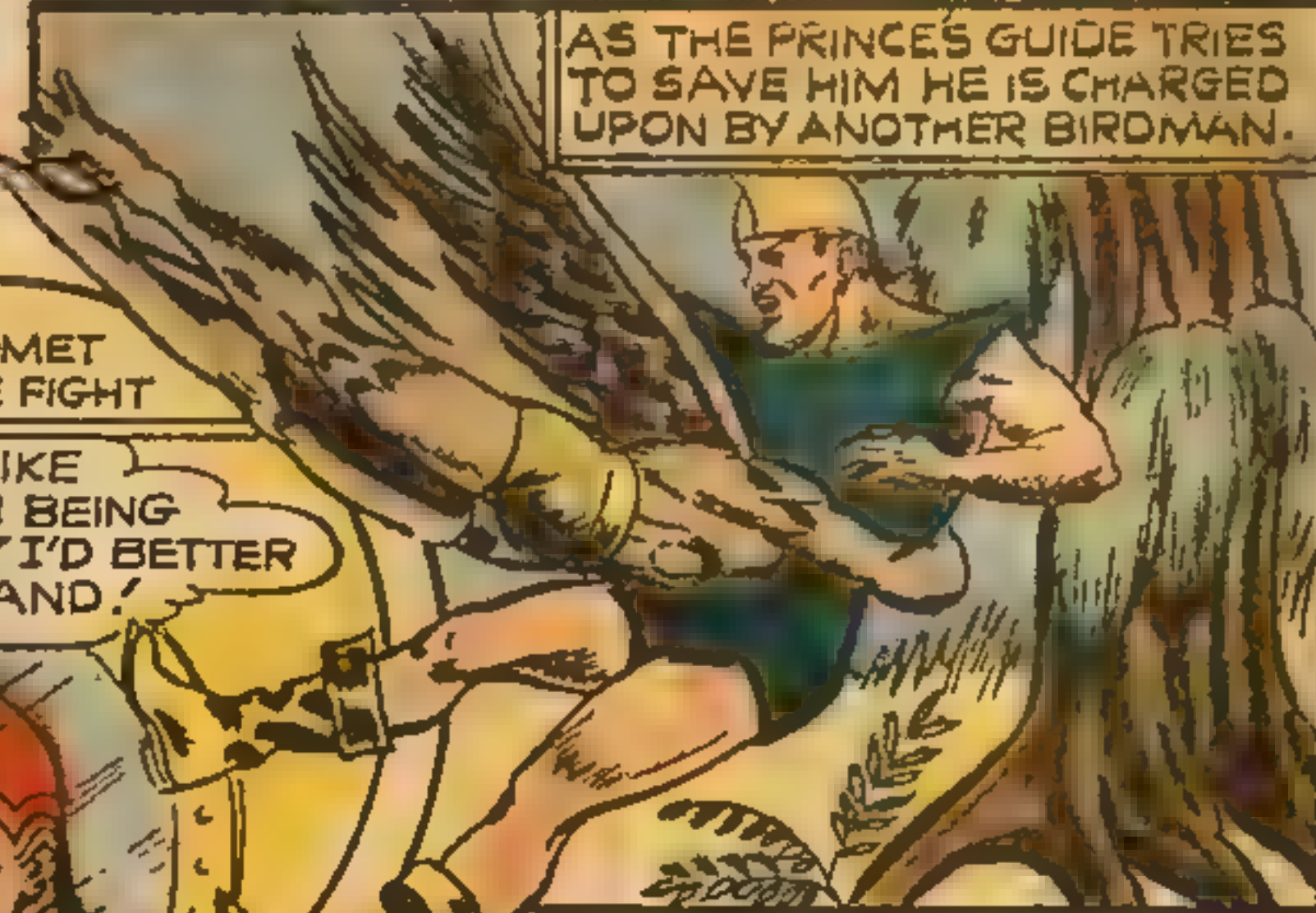
DROP PRINCE ORMAN OR I'LL LET THIS ARROW FLY!

RED COMET SEES THE FIGHT

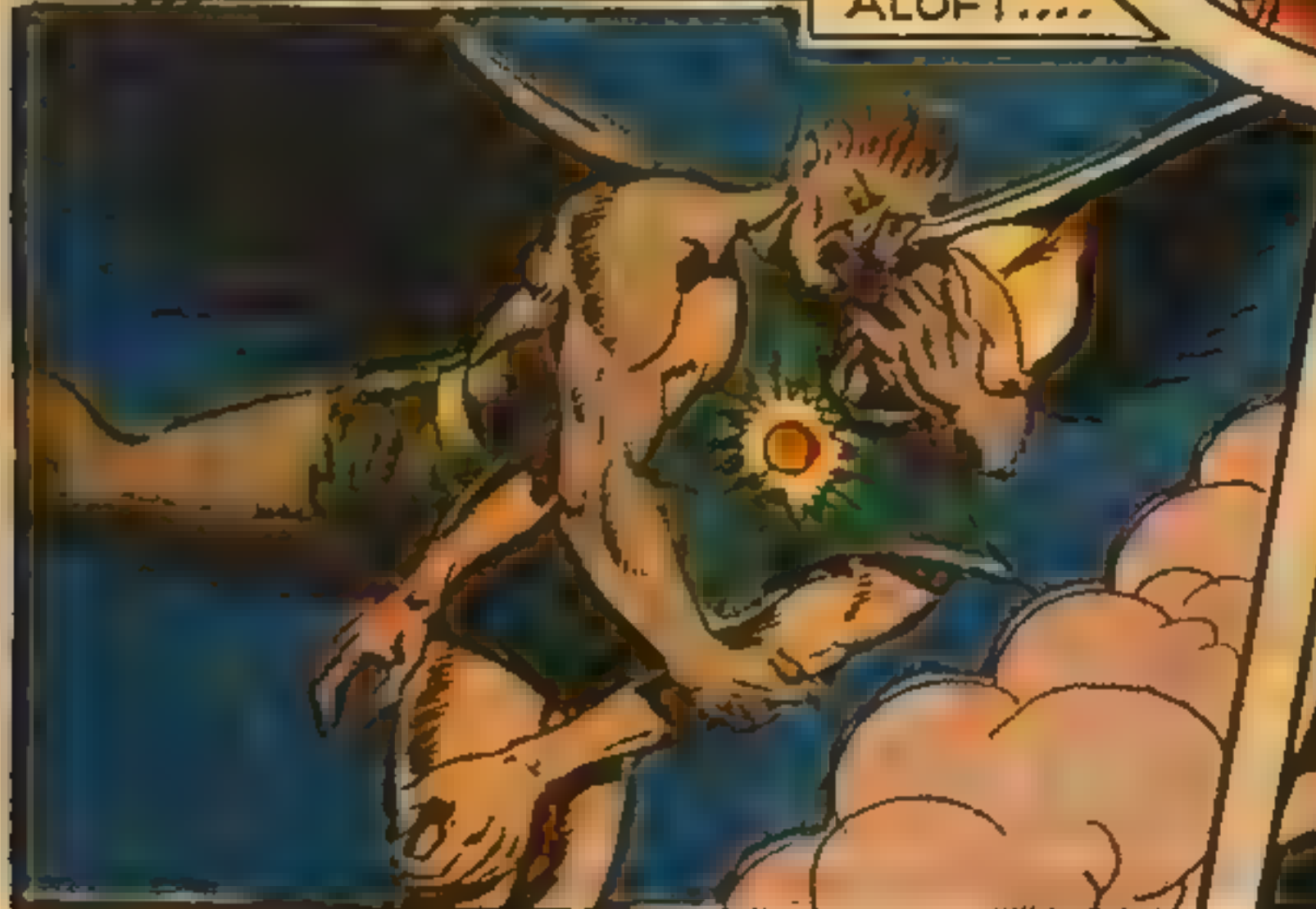
LOOK'S LIKE EARTH MEN BEING ATTACKED! I'D BETTER LEND A HAND!



AS THE PRINCE'S GUIDE TRIES TO SAVE HIM HE IS CHARGED UPON BY ANOTHER BIRDMAN.



AND IN THE CRUEL GRASP OF THE FIRST BIRDMAN THE PRINCE IS TAKEN ALOFT....



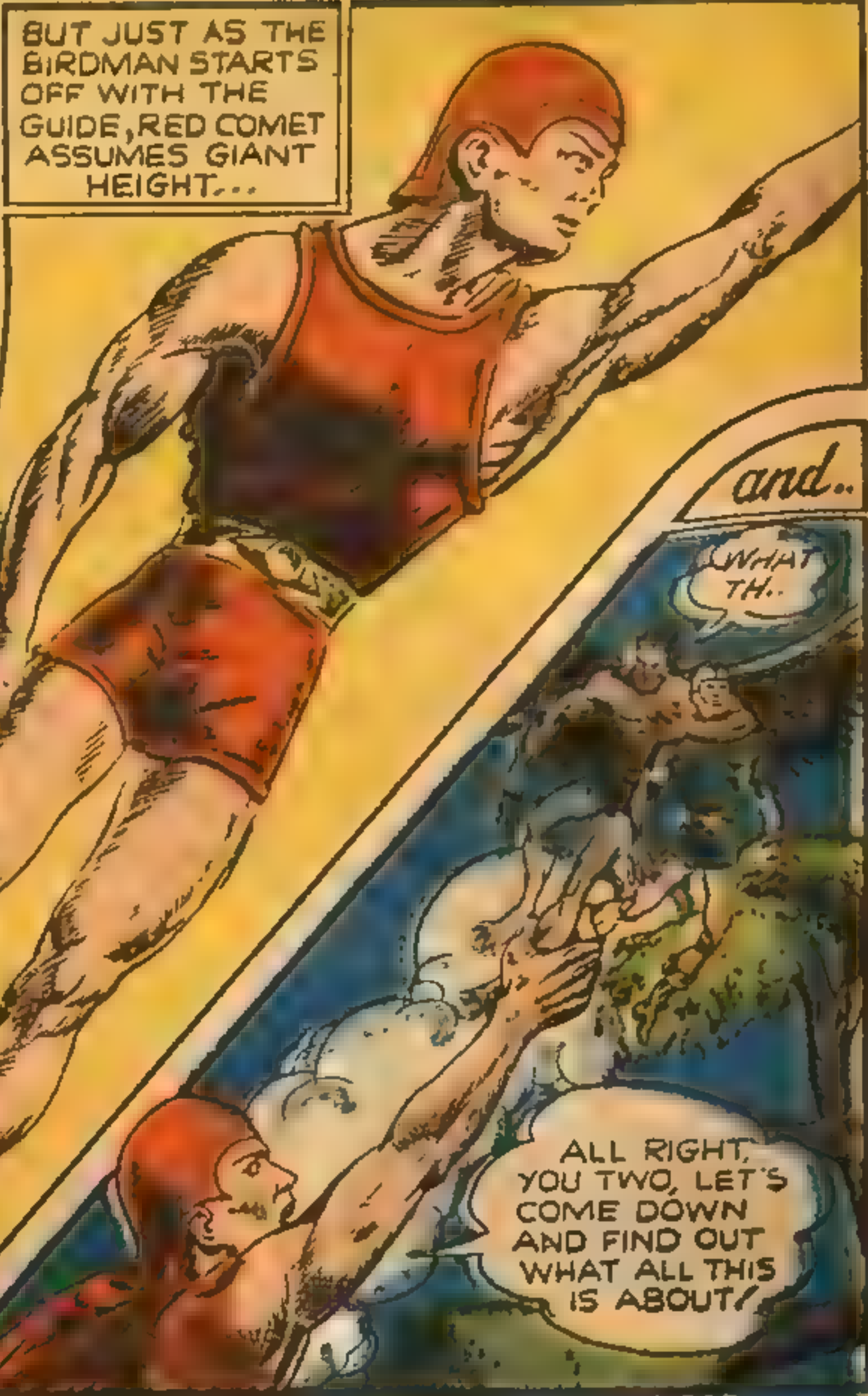
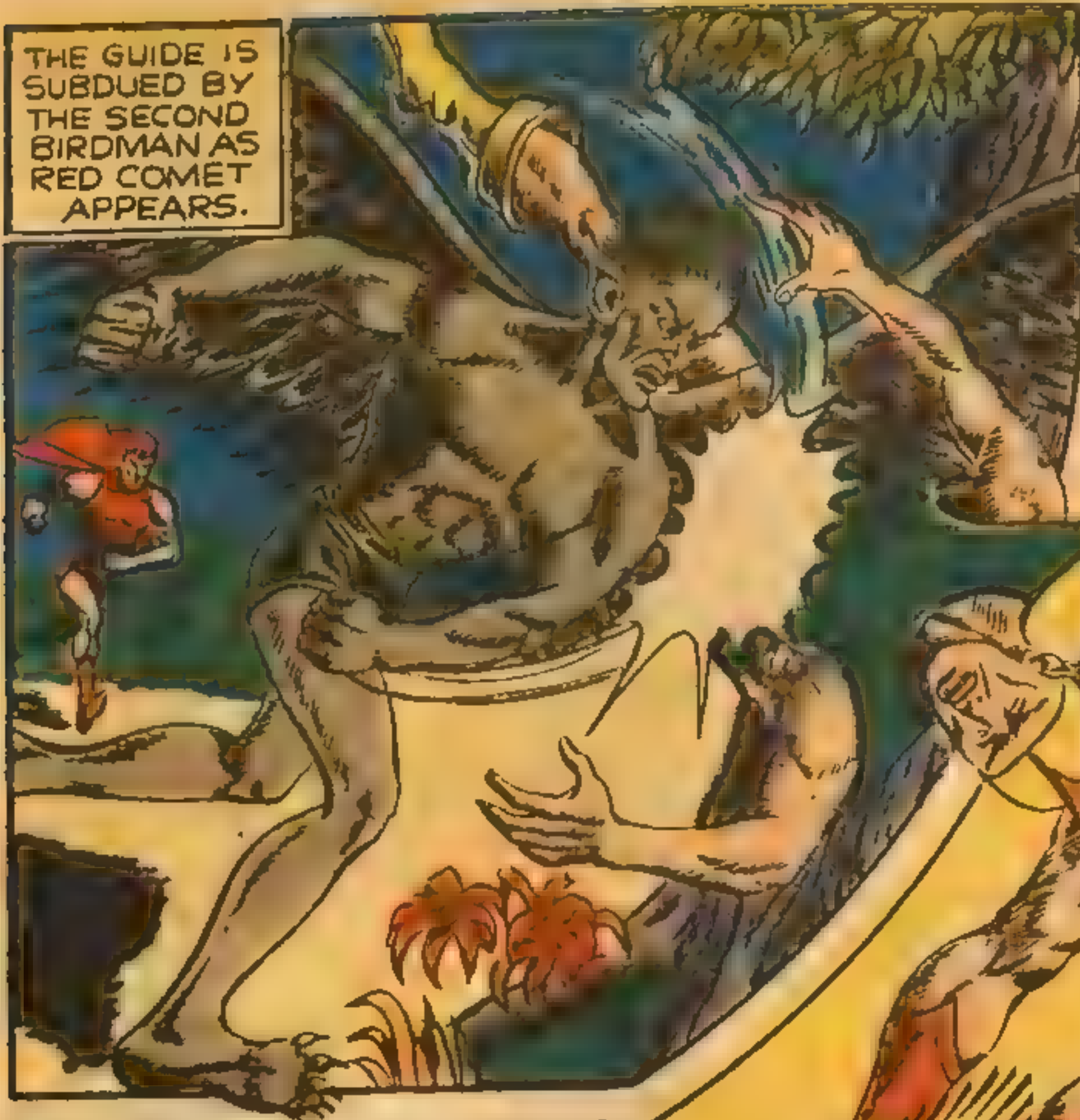
DON'T GO, RED COMET, I BEG YOU!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! KEEP YOURSELVES LOCKED IN FOR SAFETY!



THE GUIDE IS SUBDUED BY THE SECOND BIRDMAN AS RED COMET APPEARS.

BUT JUST AS THE BIRDMAN STARTS OFF WITH THE GUIDE, RED COMET ASSUMES GIANT HEIGHT...



and..

WHAT TH..

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO, LET'S COME DOWN AND FIND OUT WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT!

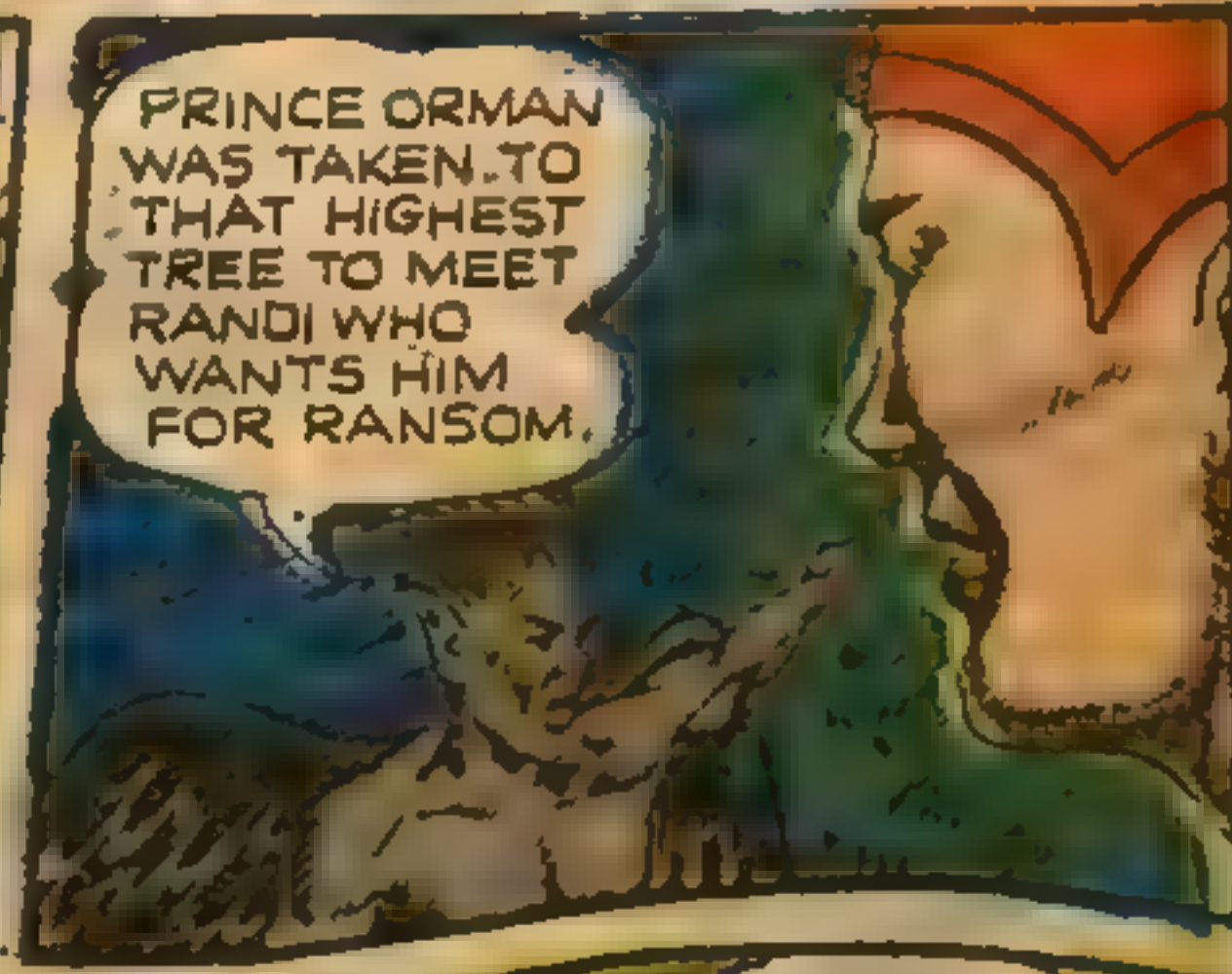
NOW, NOW, BETTER SAVE YOURSELF! TELL ME WHERE THE OTHERS WENT!



COME ON, SPEAK UP OR I'LL START PLUCKING YOUR WINGS!



PRINCE ORMAN WAS TAKEN TO THAT HIGHEST TREE TO MEET RANDI WHO WANTS HIM FOR RANSOM.

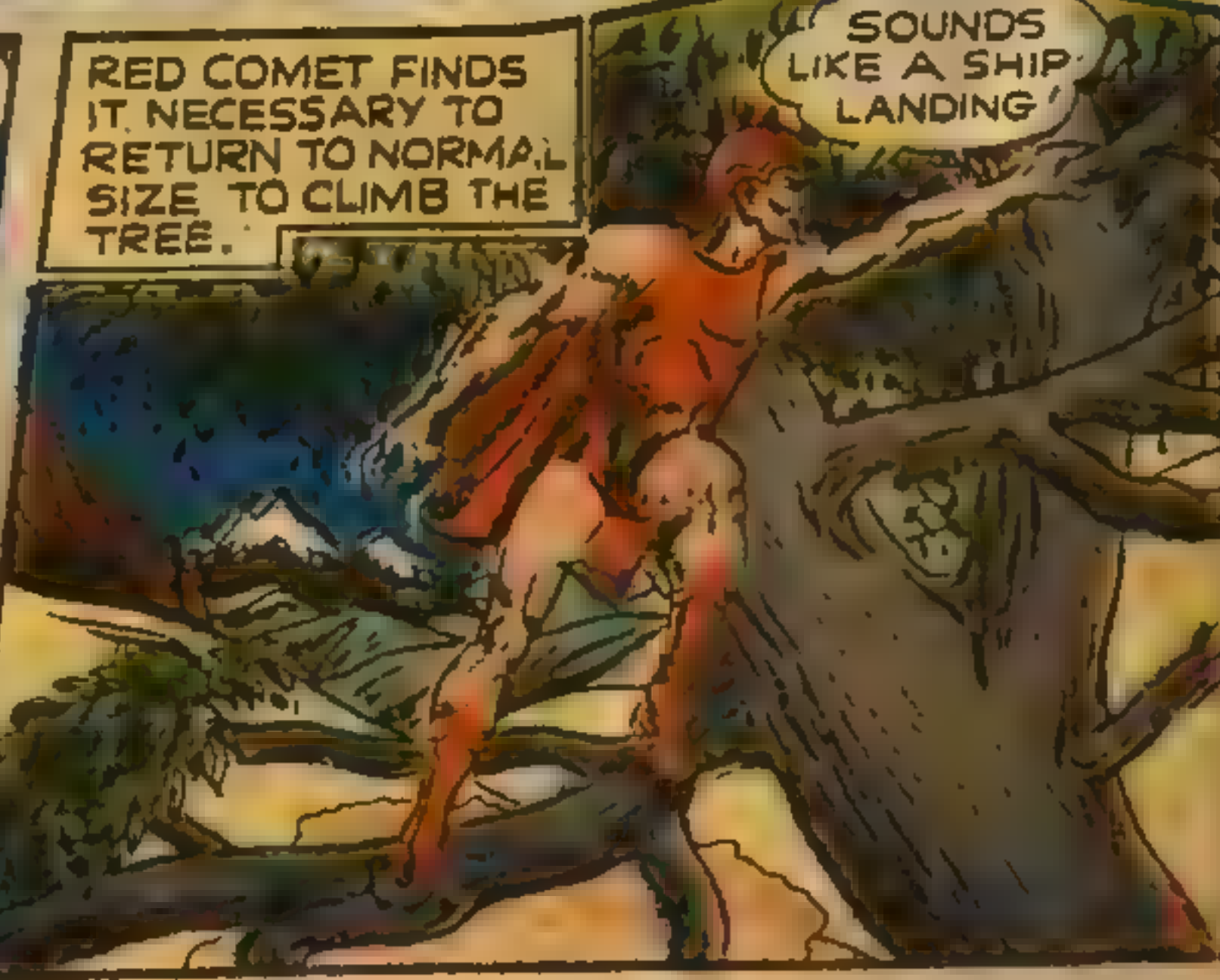
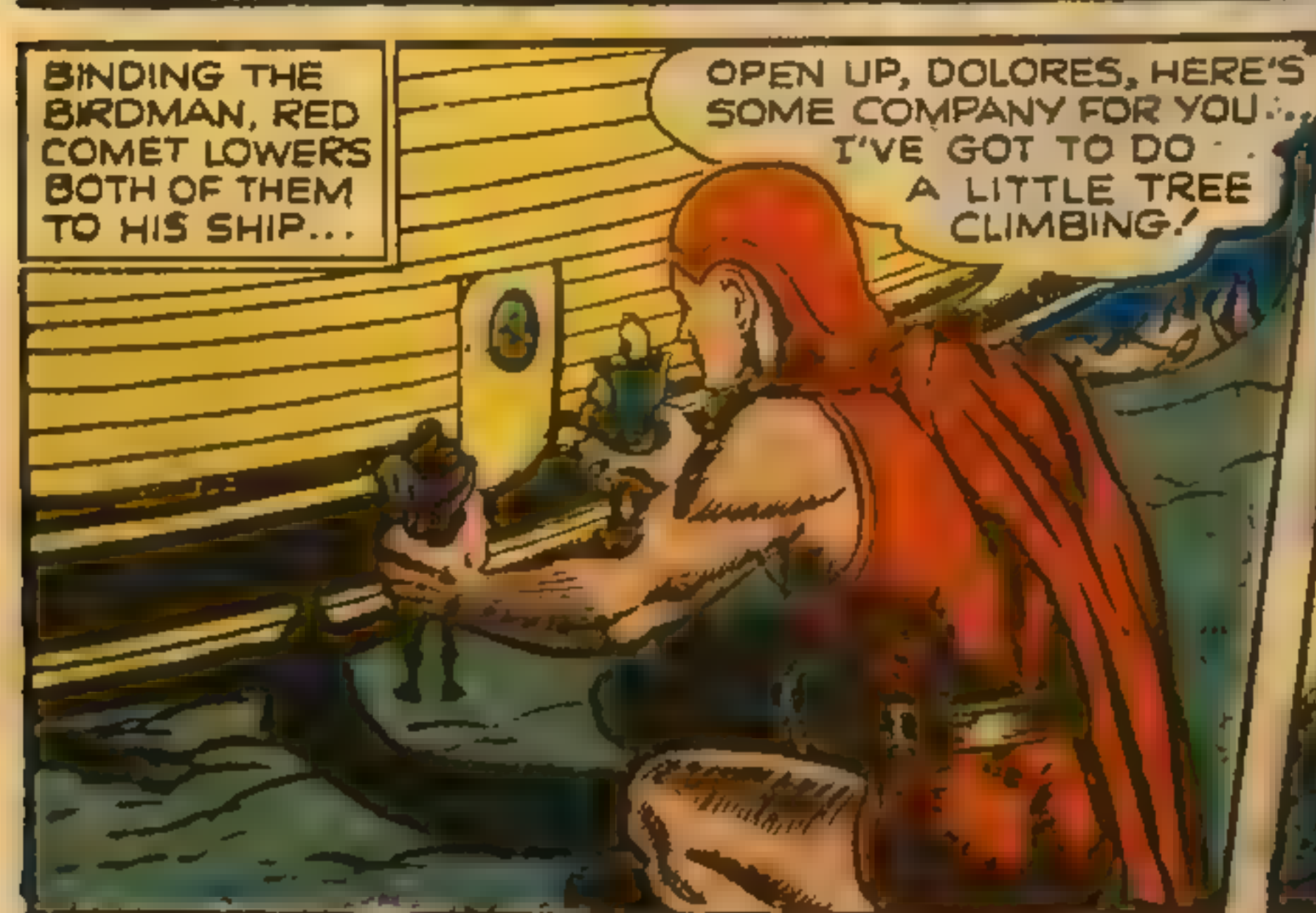


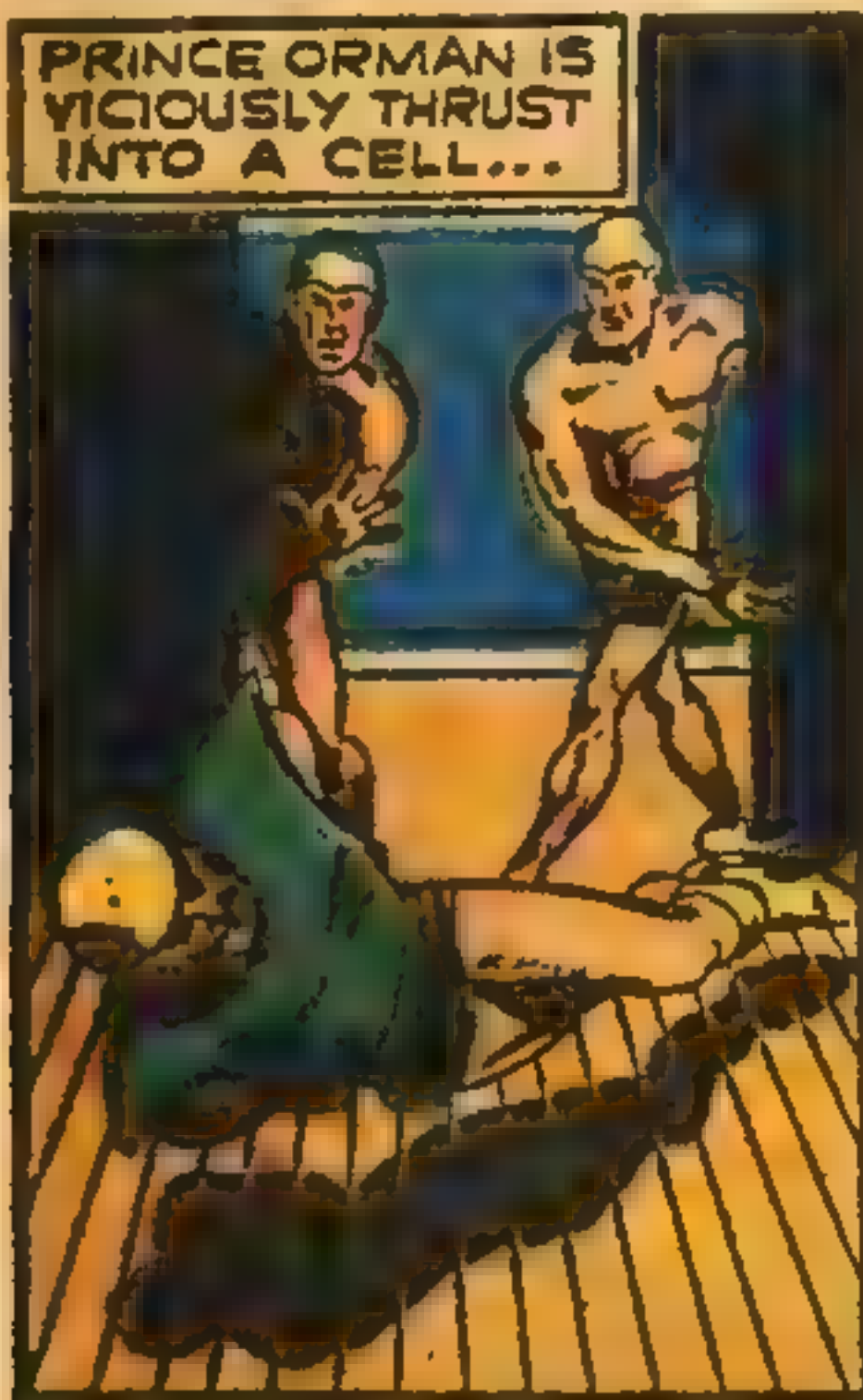
BINDING THE BIRDMAN, RED COMET LOWERS BOTH OF THEM TO HIS SHIP...

OPEN UP, DOLORES, HERE'S SOME COMPANY FOR YOU... I'VE GOT TO DO A LITTLE TREE CLIMBING!

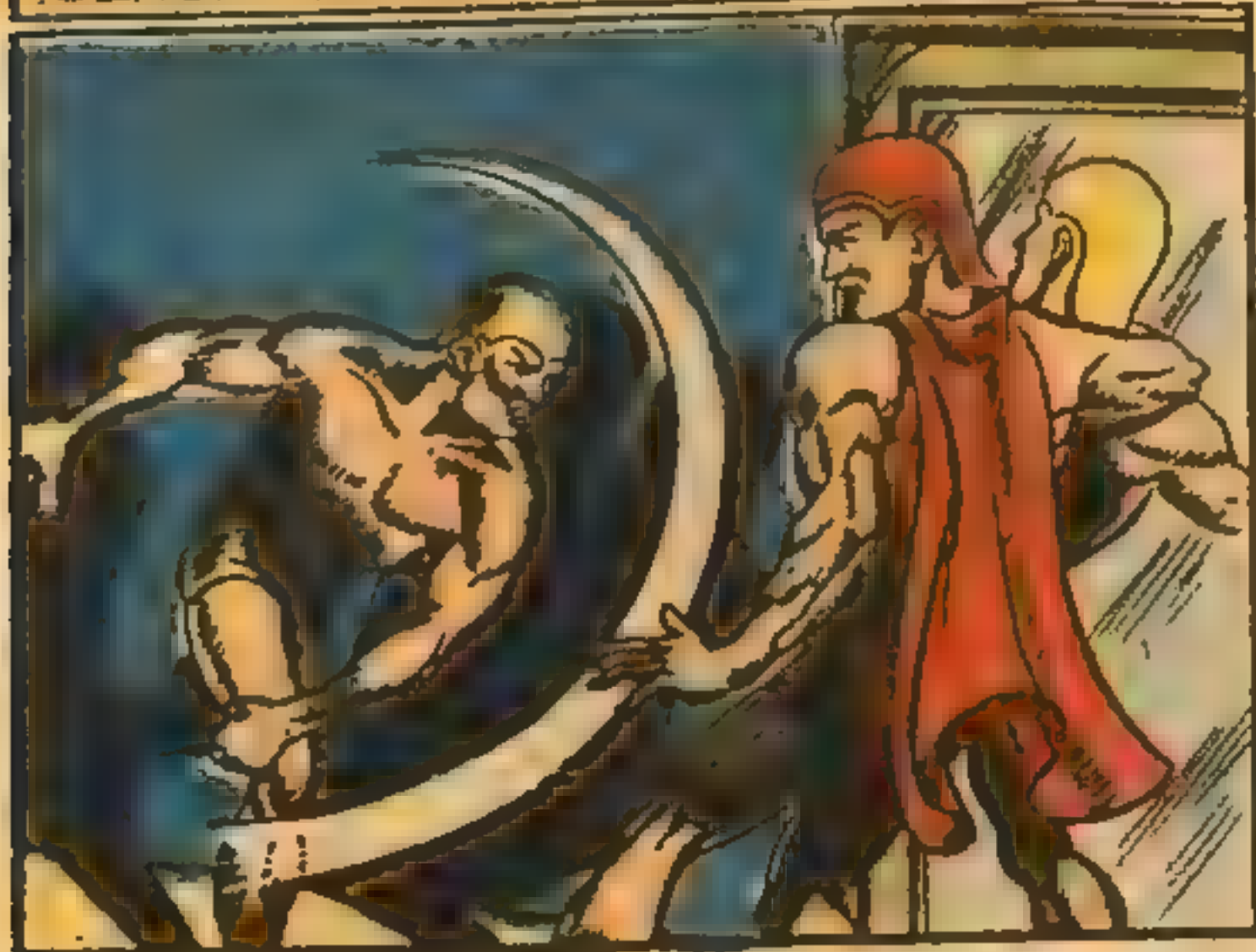
RED COMET FINDS IT NECESSARY TO RETURN TO NORMAL SIZE TO CLIMB THE TREE.

SOUNDS LIKE A SHIP LANDING!

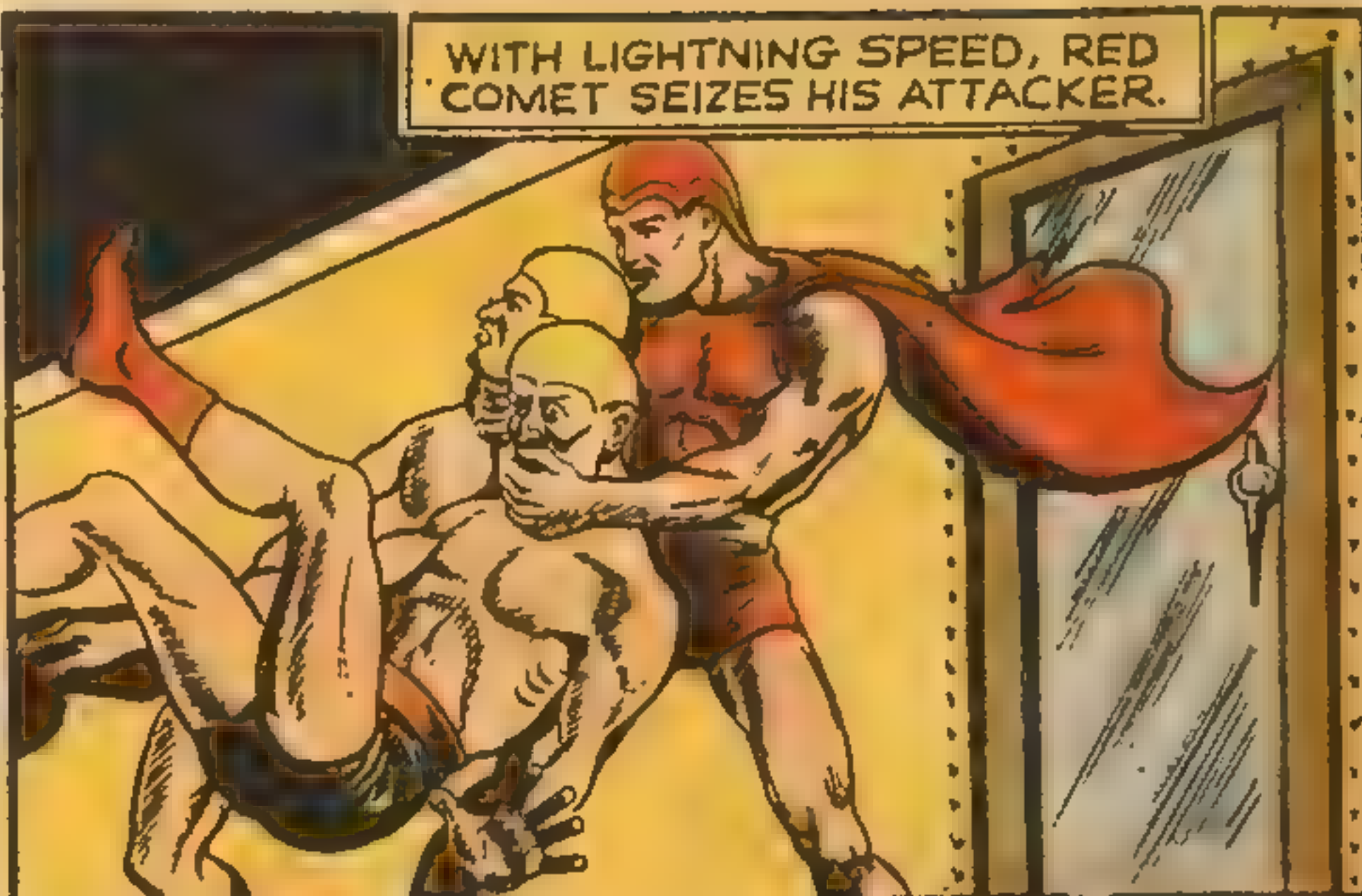




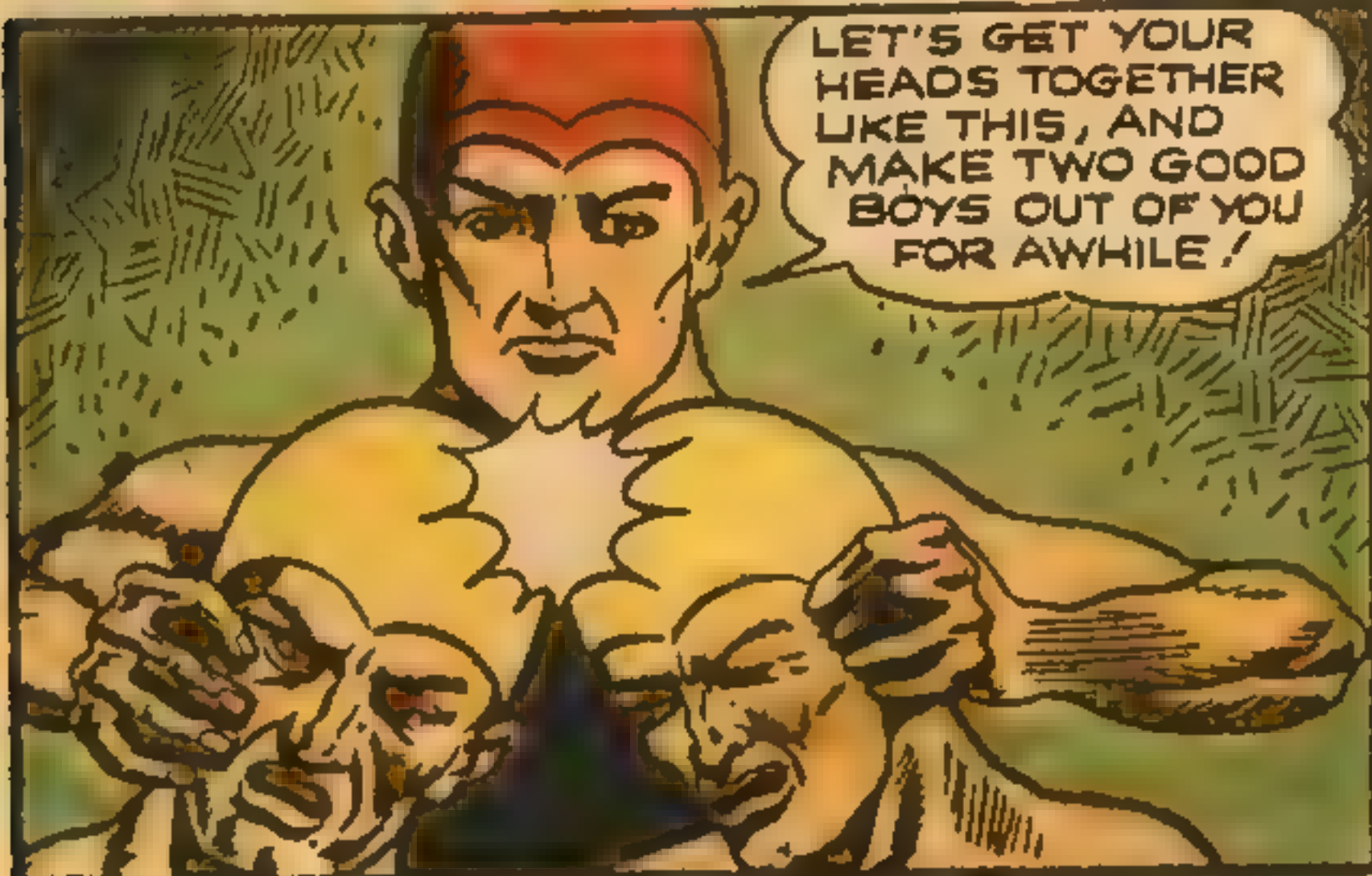
BUT IN THE NICK OF TIME, RED COMET SENSES HIS APPROACH, AND SIDESTEPS.



WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, RED COMET SEIZES HIS ATTACKER.



LET'S GET YOUR HEADS TOGETHER LIKE THIS, AND MAKE TWO GOOD BOYS OUT OF YOU FOR AWHILE!



HERE ARE A COUPLE OF GUARDS TO TAKE YOUR ROOM. I'LL RELEASE YOUR BONDS.

WHAT TH... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

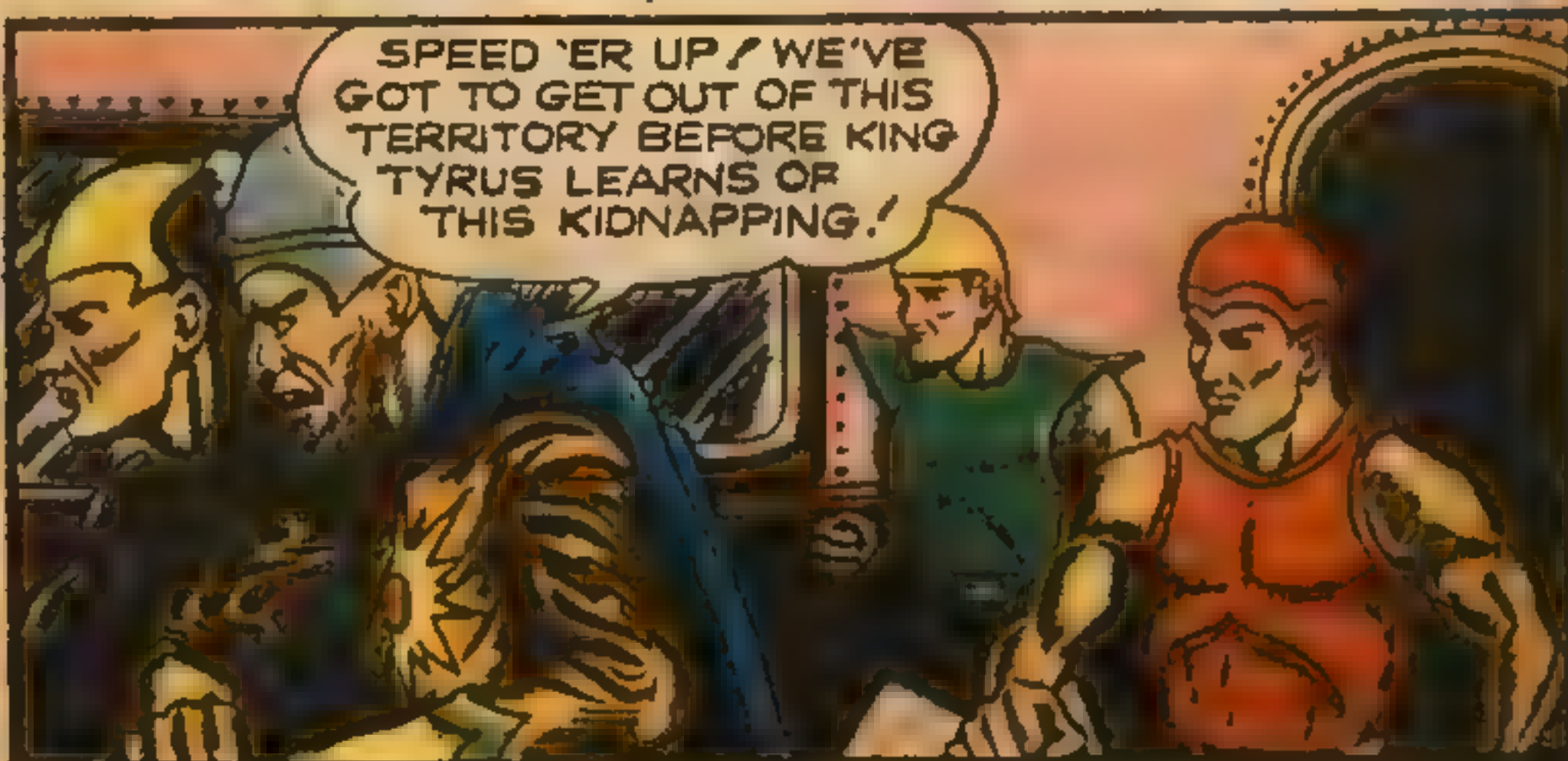


FROM EARTH... IF YOU CAN PILOT THIS SHIP WE'LL GO AHEAD AND RELIEVE RANDI AND HIS PILOT.

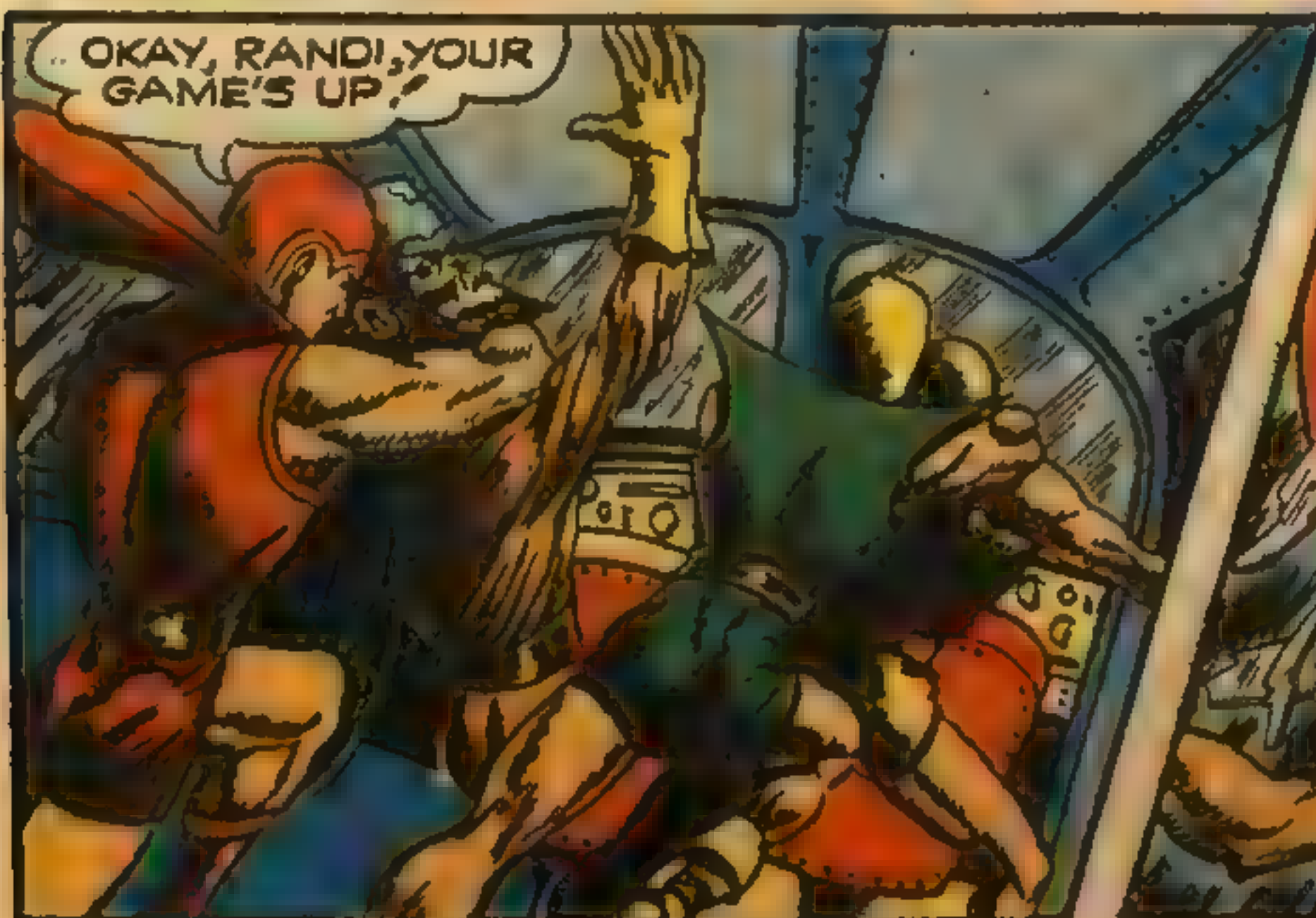
I'M WITH YOU!



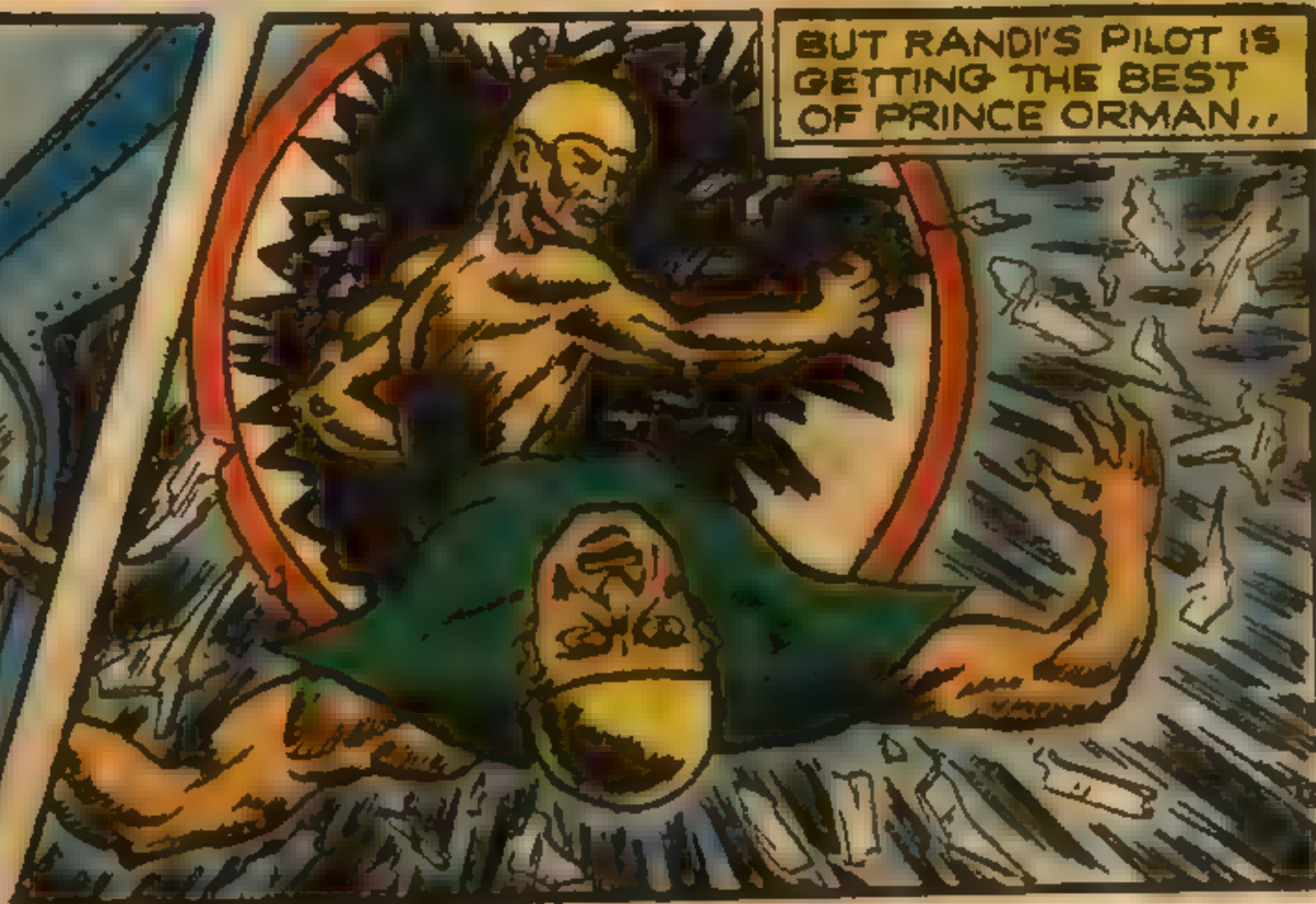
SPEED 'ER UP! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS TERRITORY BEFORE KING TYRUS LEARNS OF THIS KIDNAPPING.

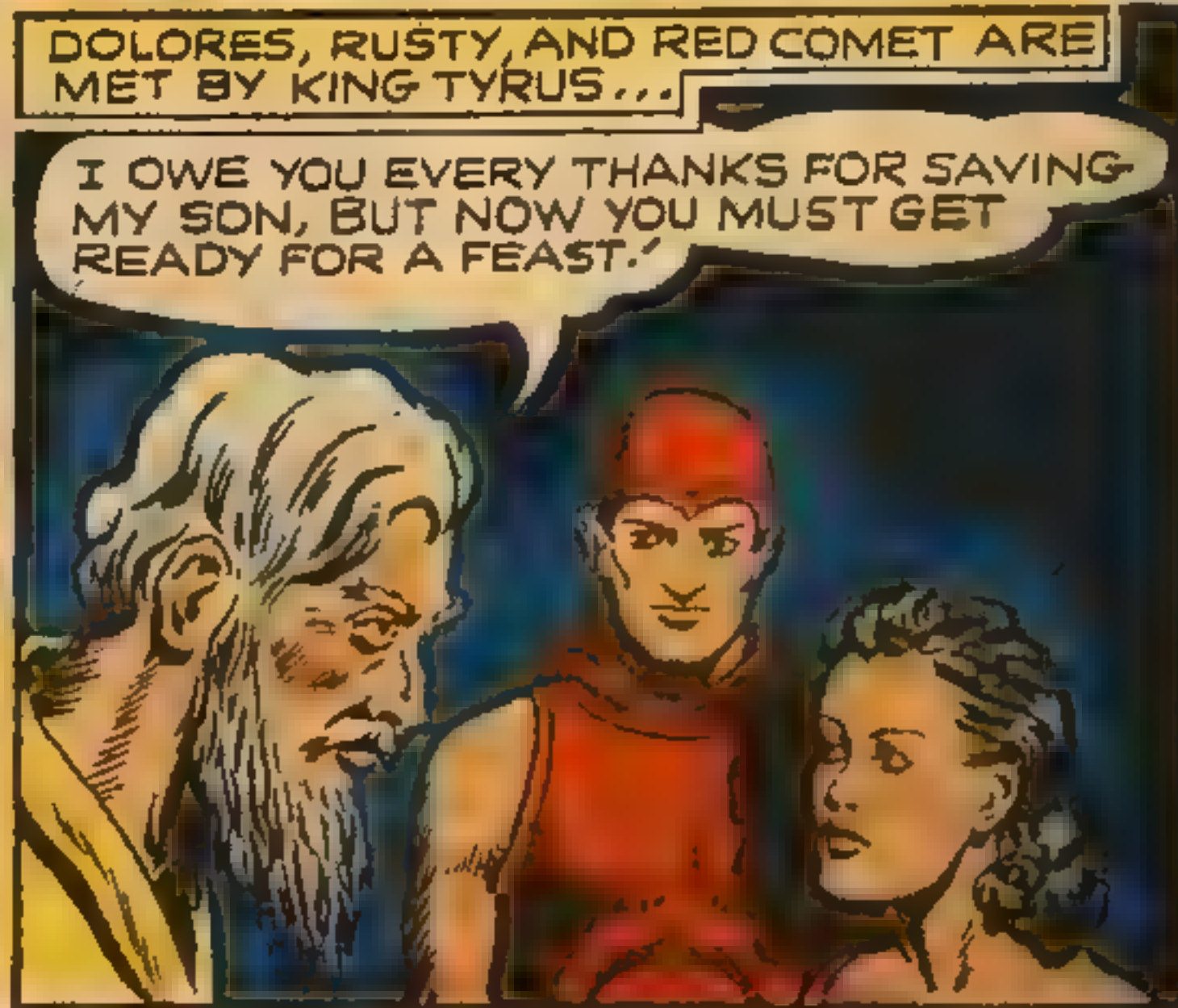
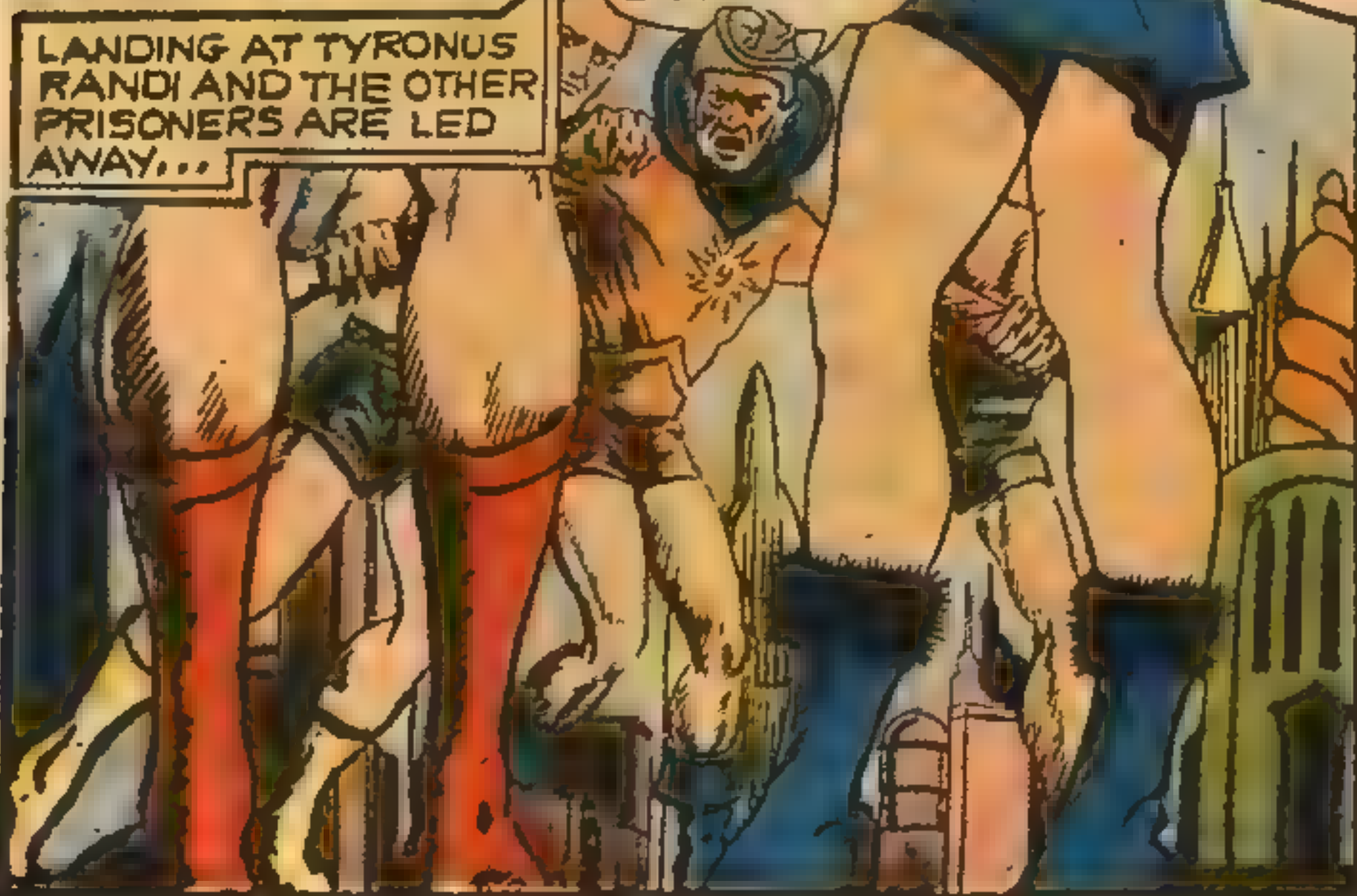
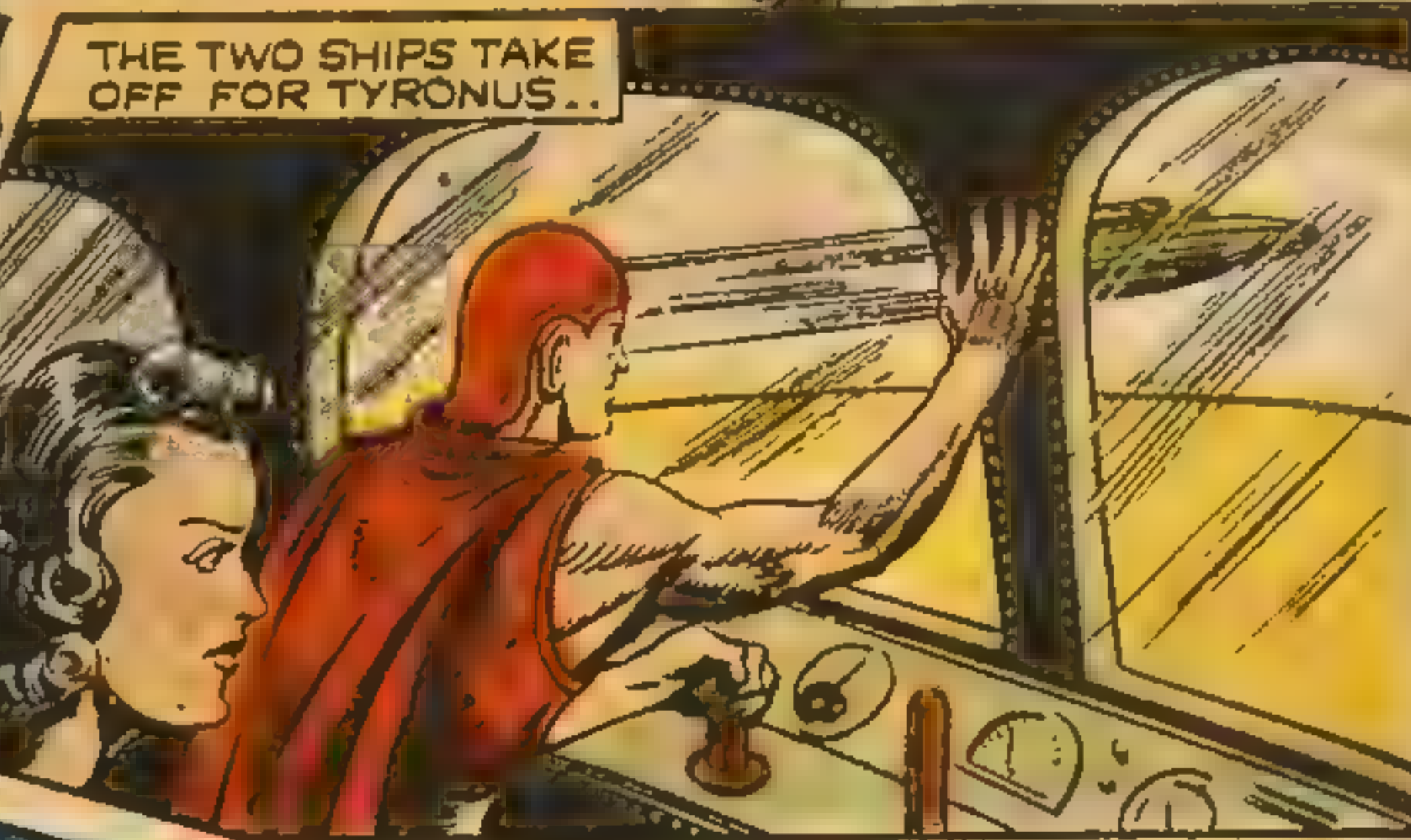
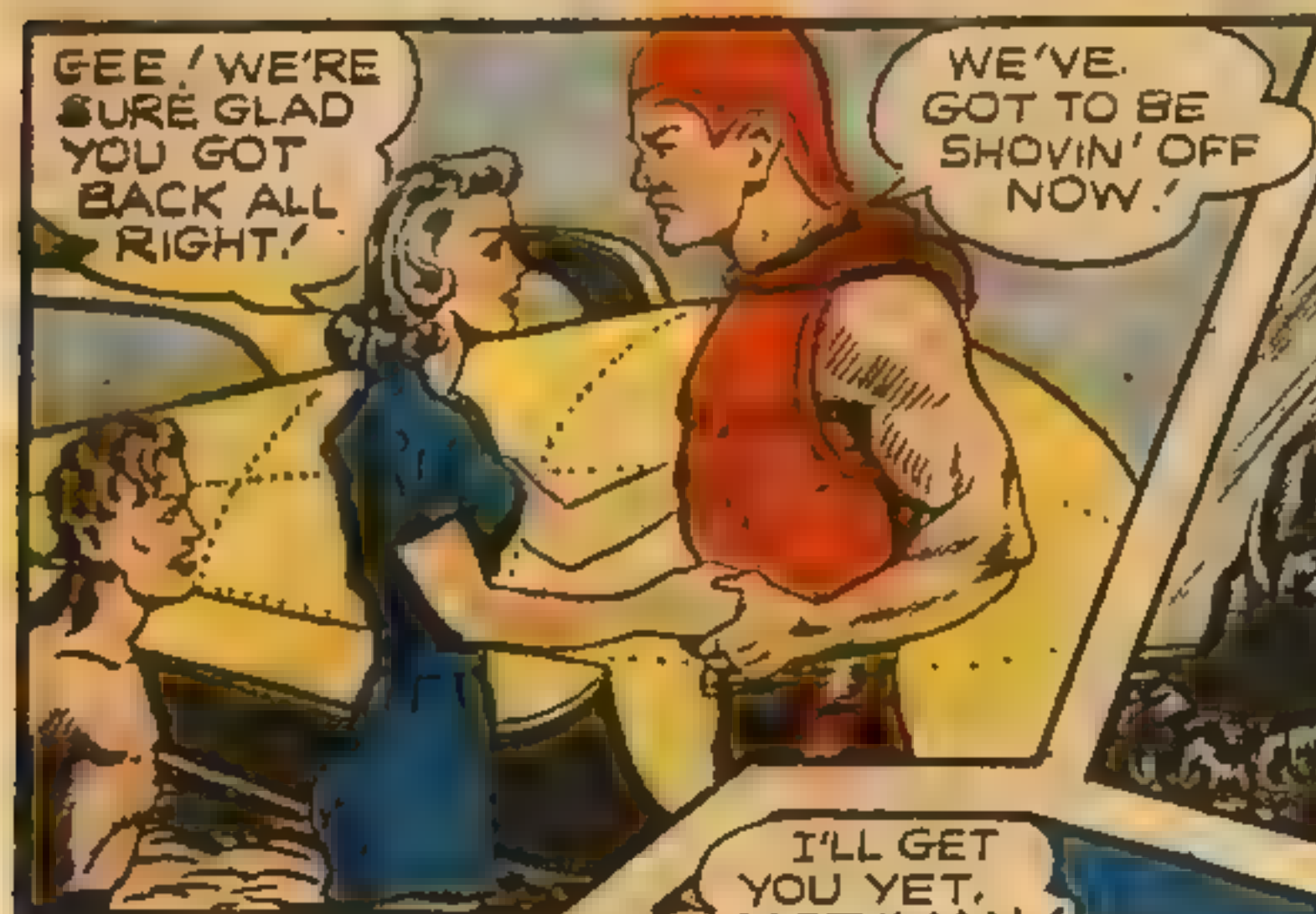
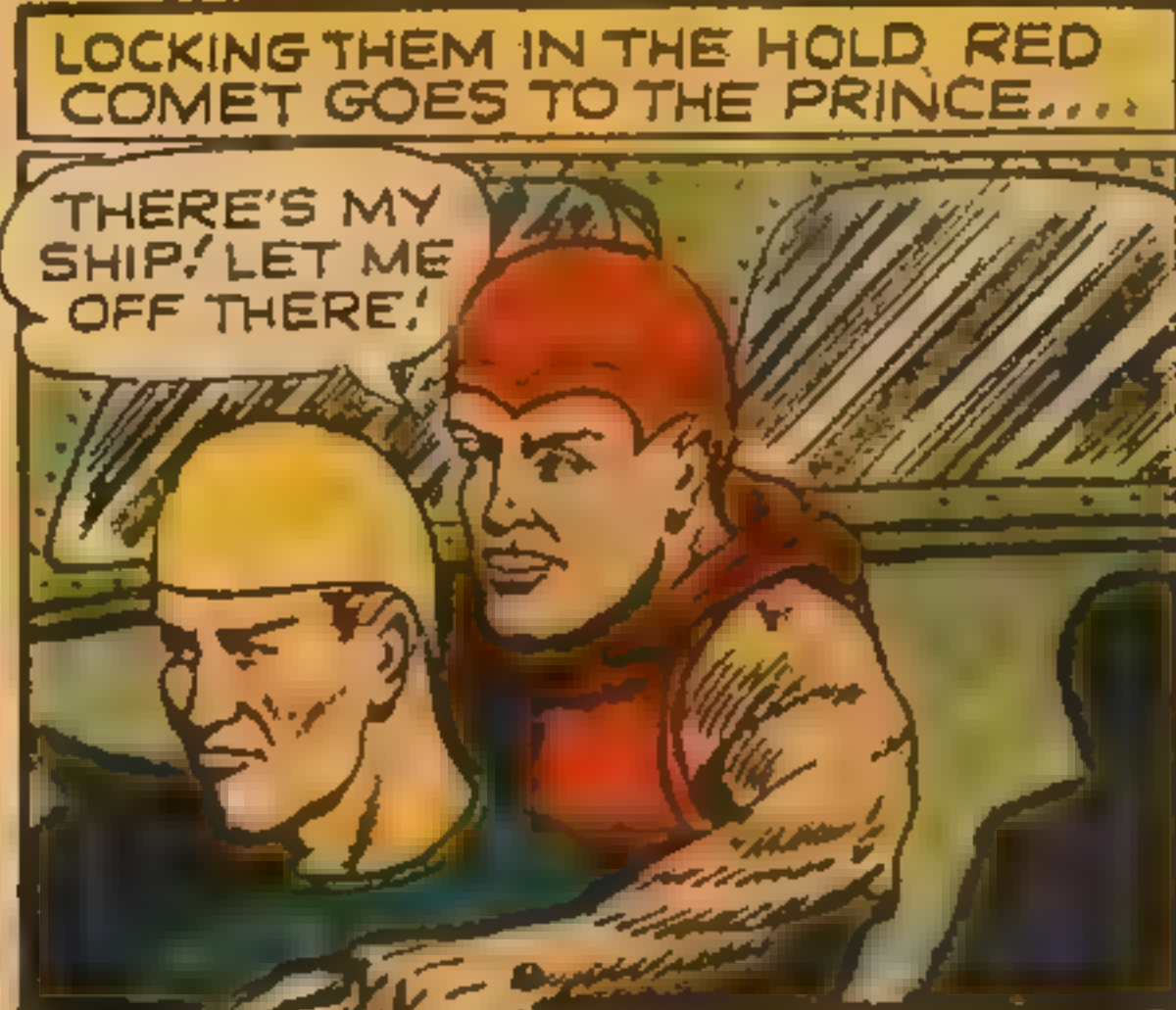
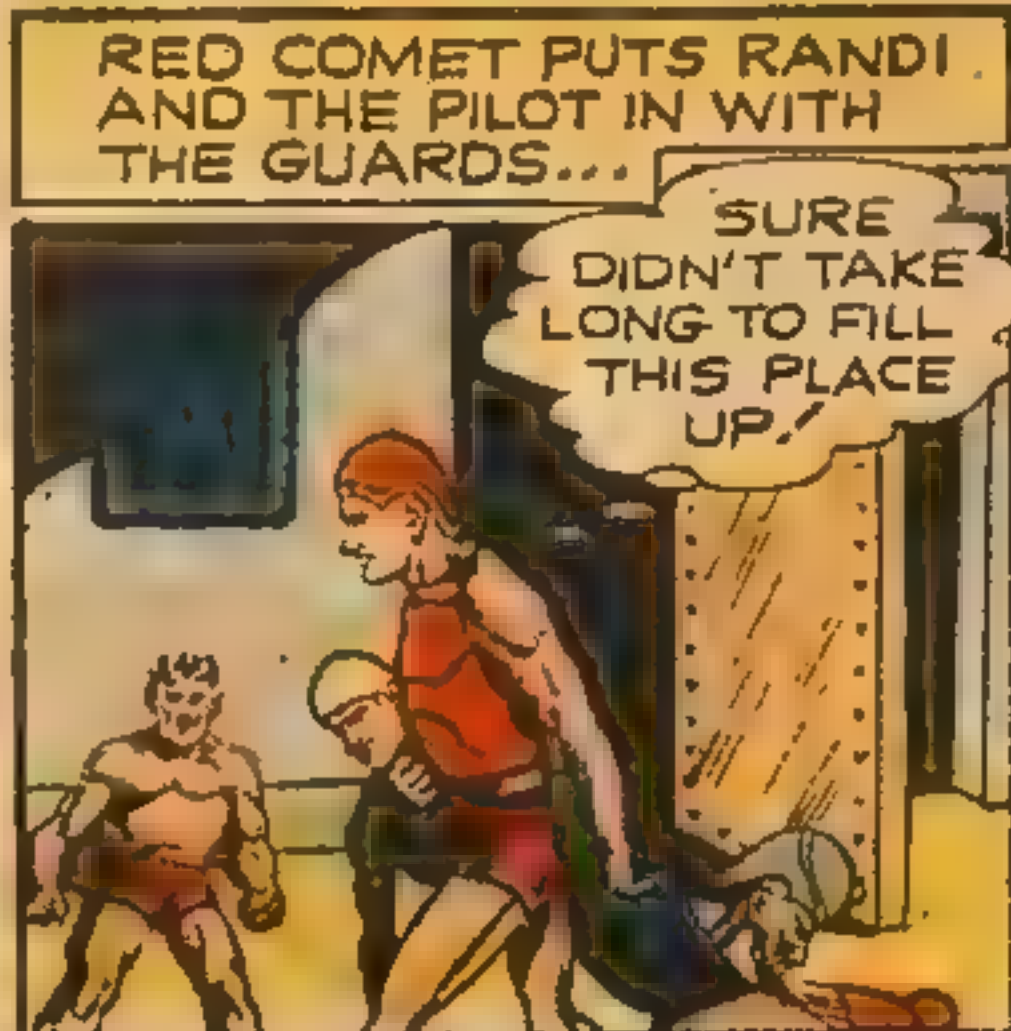
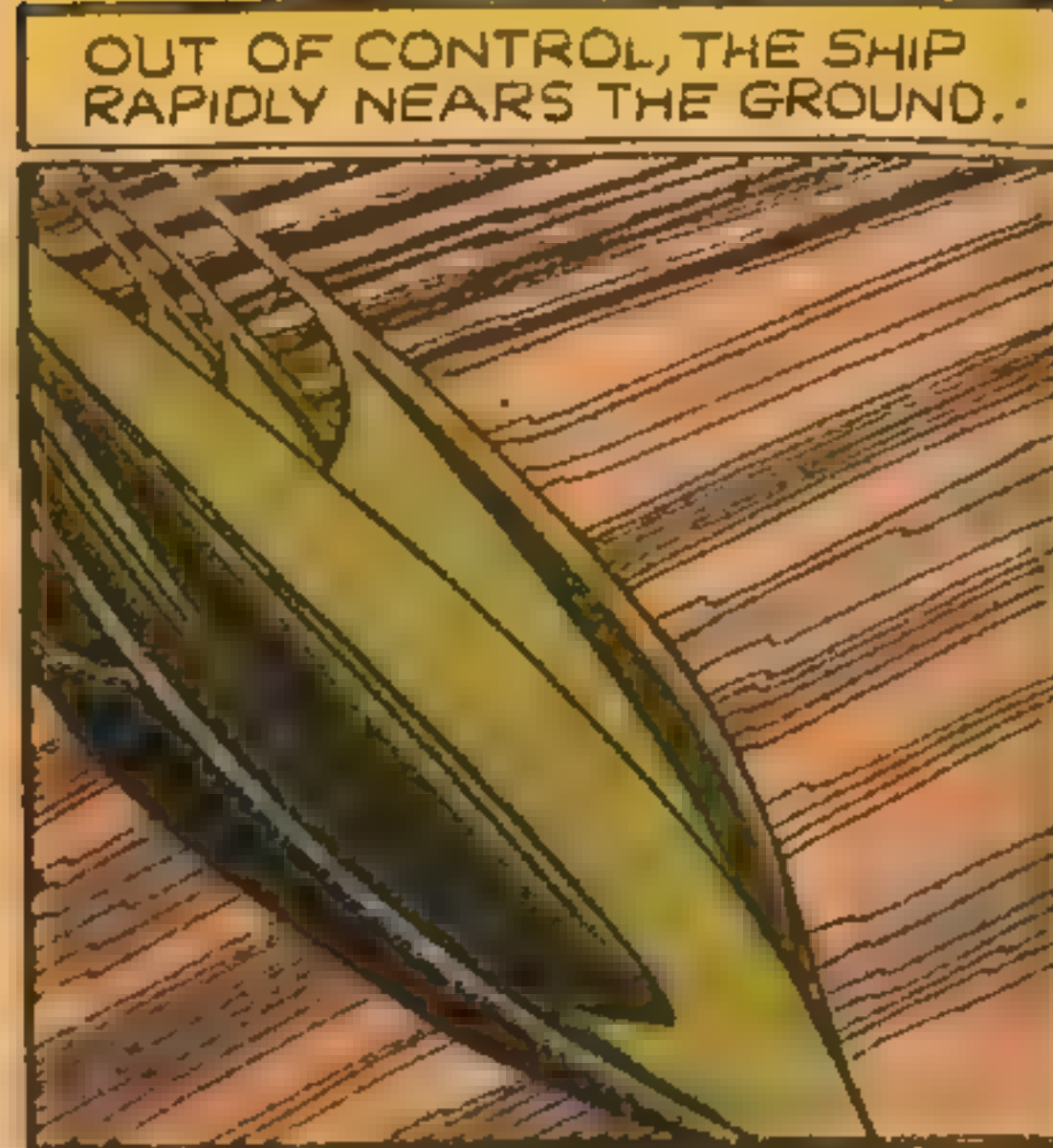
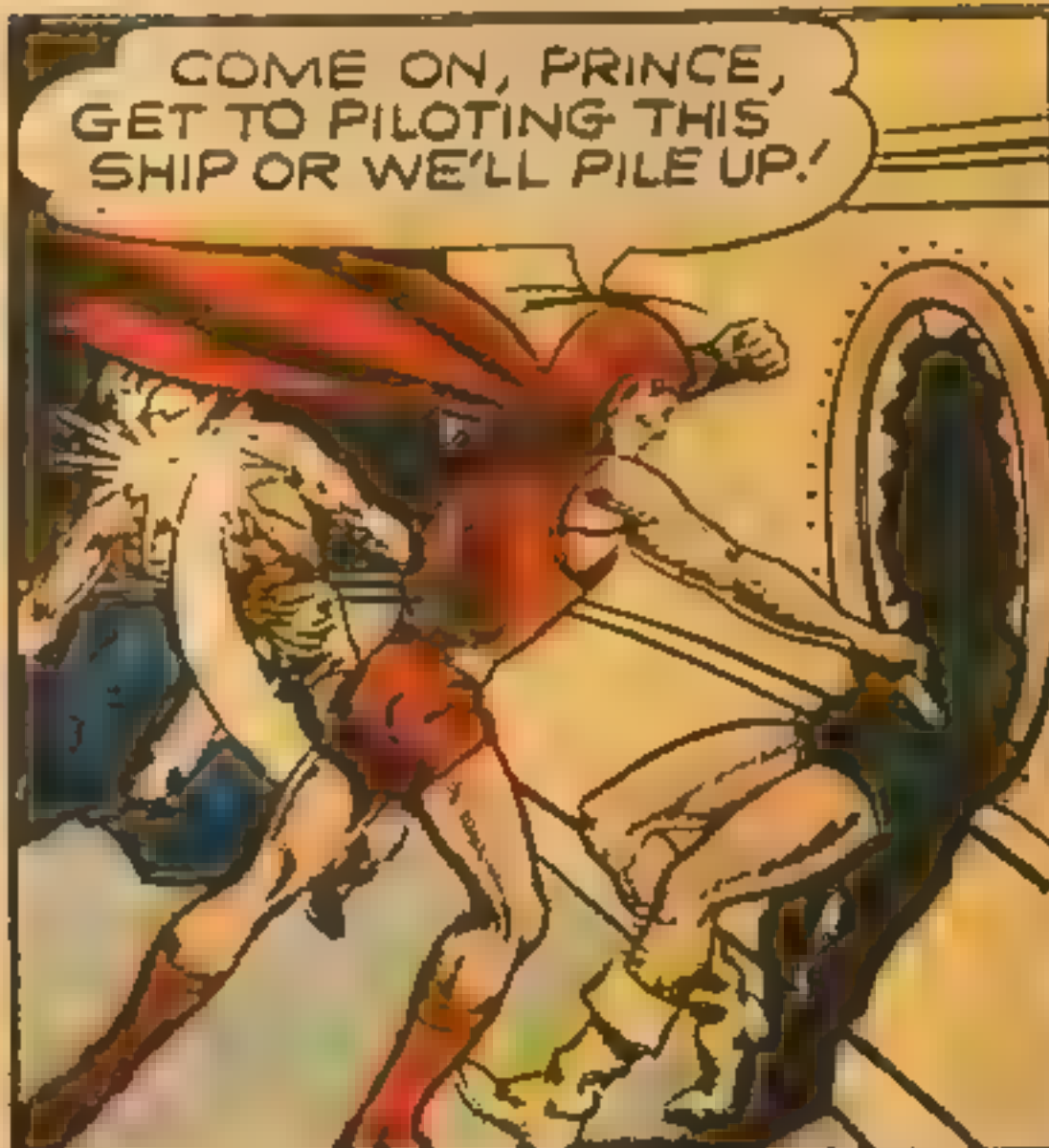


OKAY, RANDI, YOUR GAME'S UP.



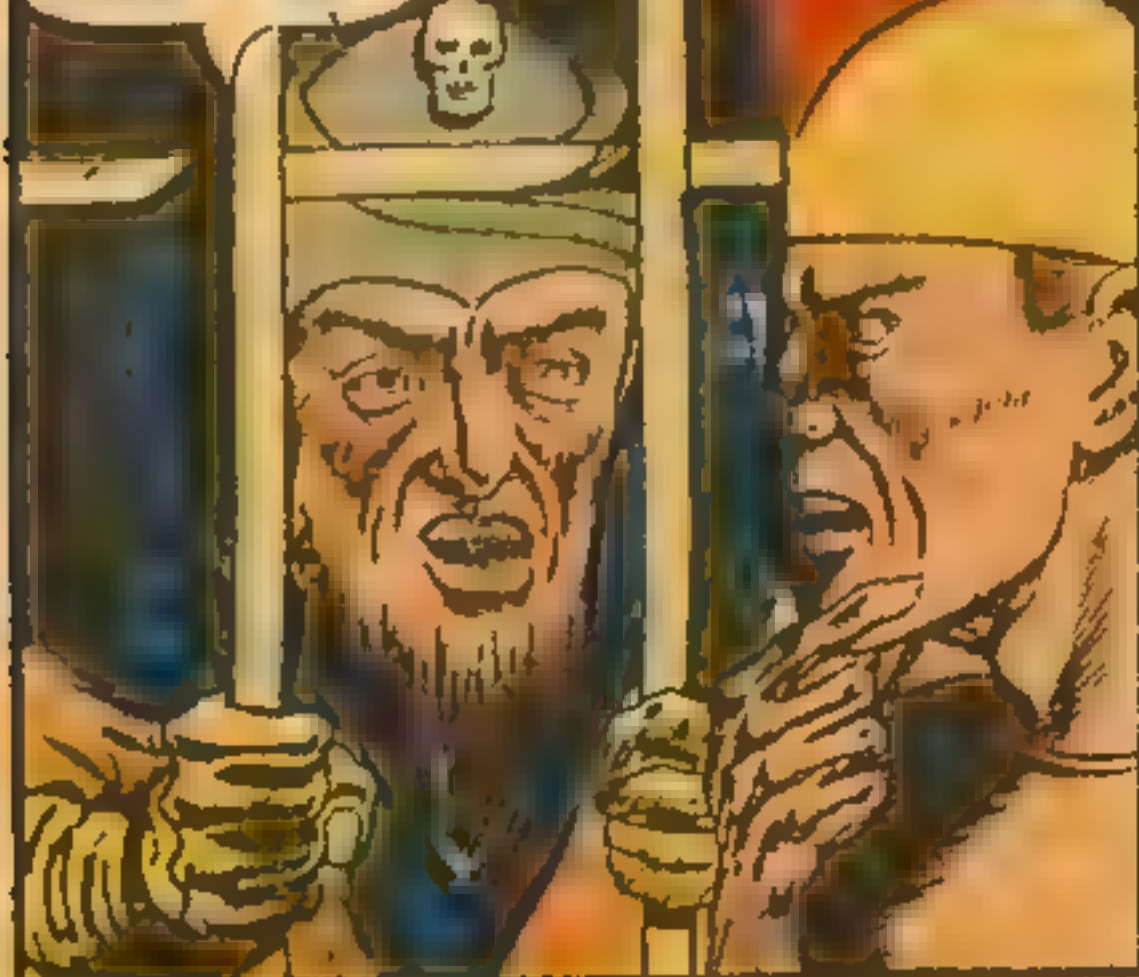
BUT RANDI'S PILOT IS GETTING THE BEST OF PRINCE ORMAN.





IN TI'E CELL CHAMBER THE WILY RANDI IS AT WORK ON THE GUARD.

NOW, YOU JUST LET ME OUT AND I'LL TAKE YOU ALONG TO MY EMPIRE AS A PRINCE..



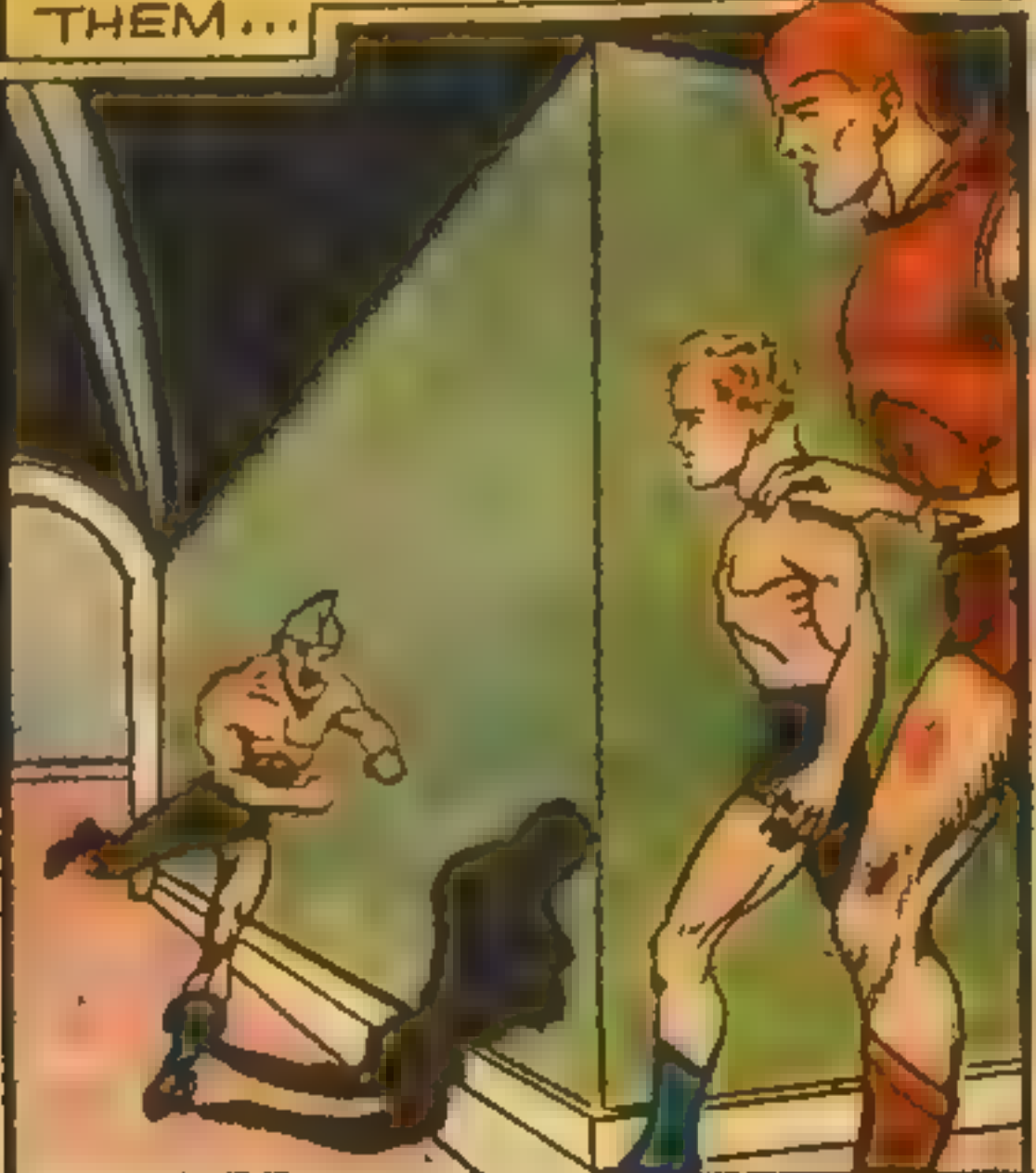
THE GUARD IS LURED INTO RELEASING THE PRISONER.

A PRINCE! PRINCE KERUN. OF RANDUN! THAT WILL BE ME!



FOOL! TRAITOR! TO THINK THAT I WOULD TAKE ONE LIKE YOU FOR A PRINCE OF MY CASTLE WHEN ALL I WANTED WAS YOUR OUTFIT..

AS RED COMET AND RUSTY GO TO THEIR CHAMBER, RANDI, IN DISGUISE, UNKNOWINGLY RACES DOWN A CORRIDOR TOWARD THEM...



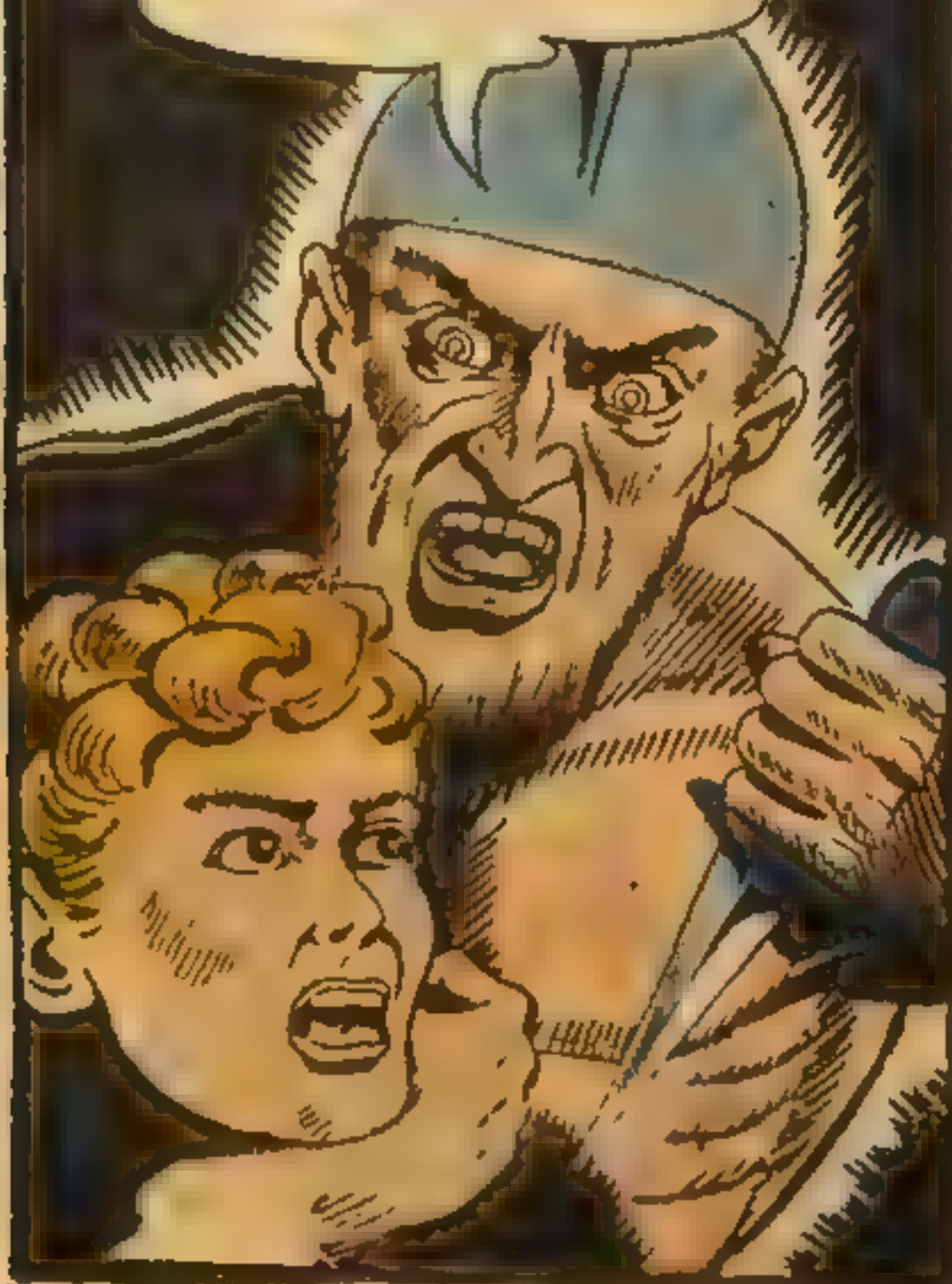
AND SMASHES SMACK INTO THEM.



RANDI!

YEAH, IT'S ME! I SAID I'D GET EVEN WITH YOU!

NOW, ONE MOVE FROM YOU TO STOP ME, AND THIS BOY IS A DEAD PIGEON!



RED COMET IS ABOUT TO DASH AFTER RANDI WHEN DOLORES APPEARS.....



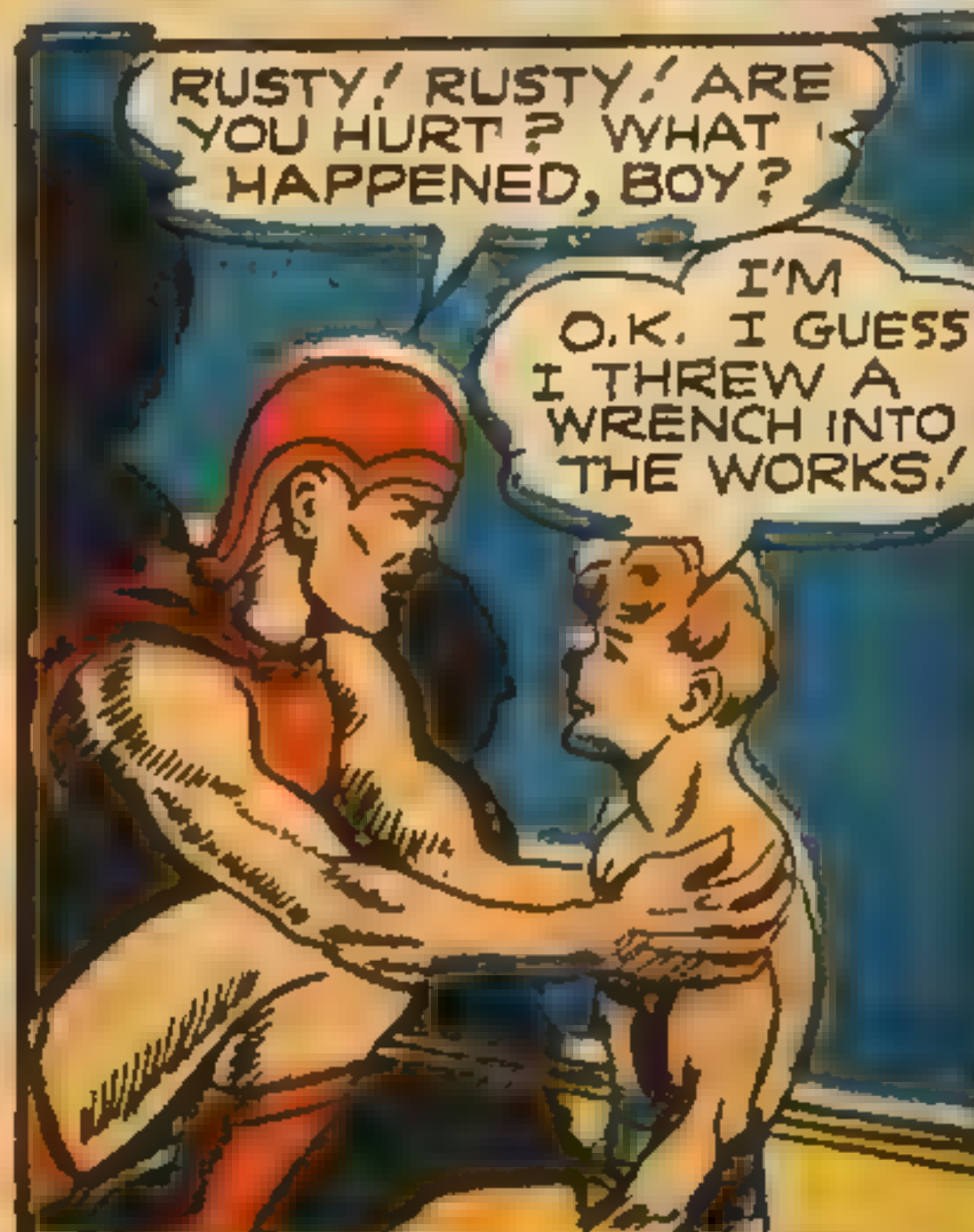
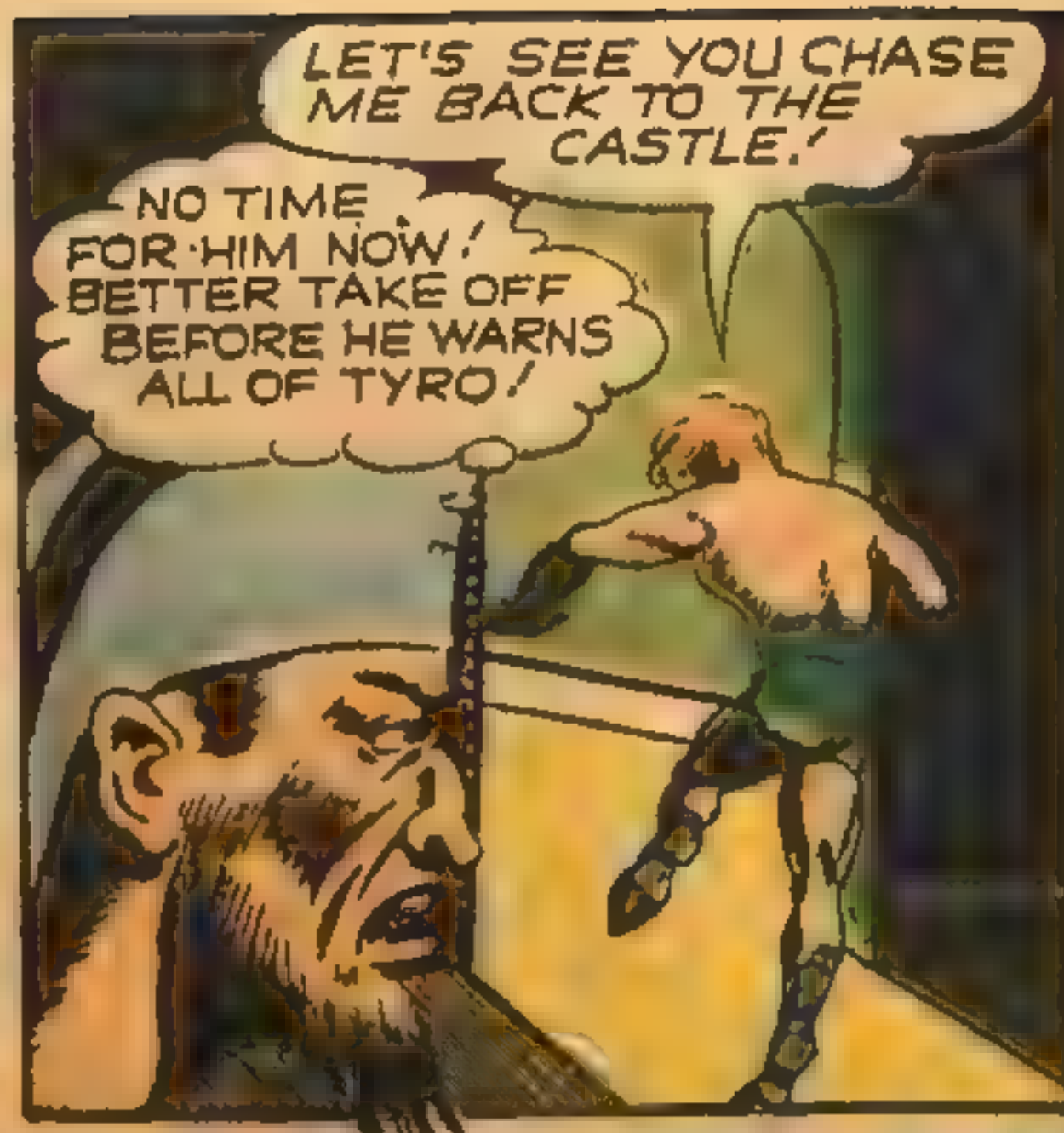
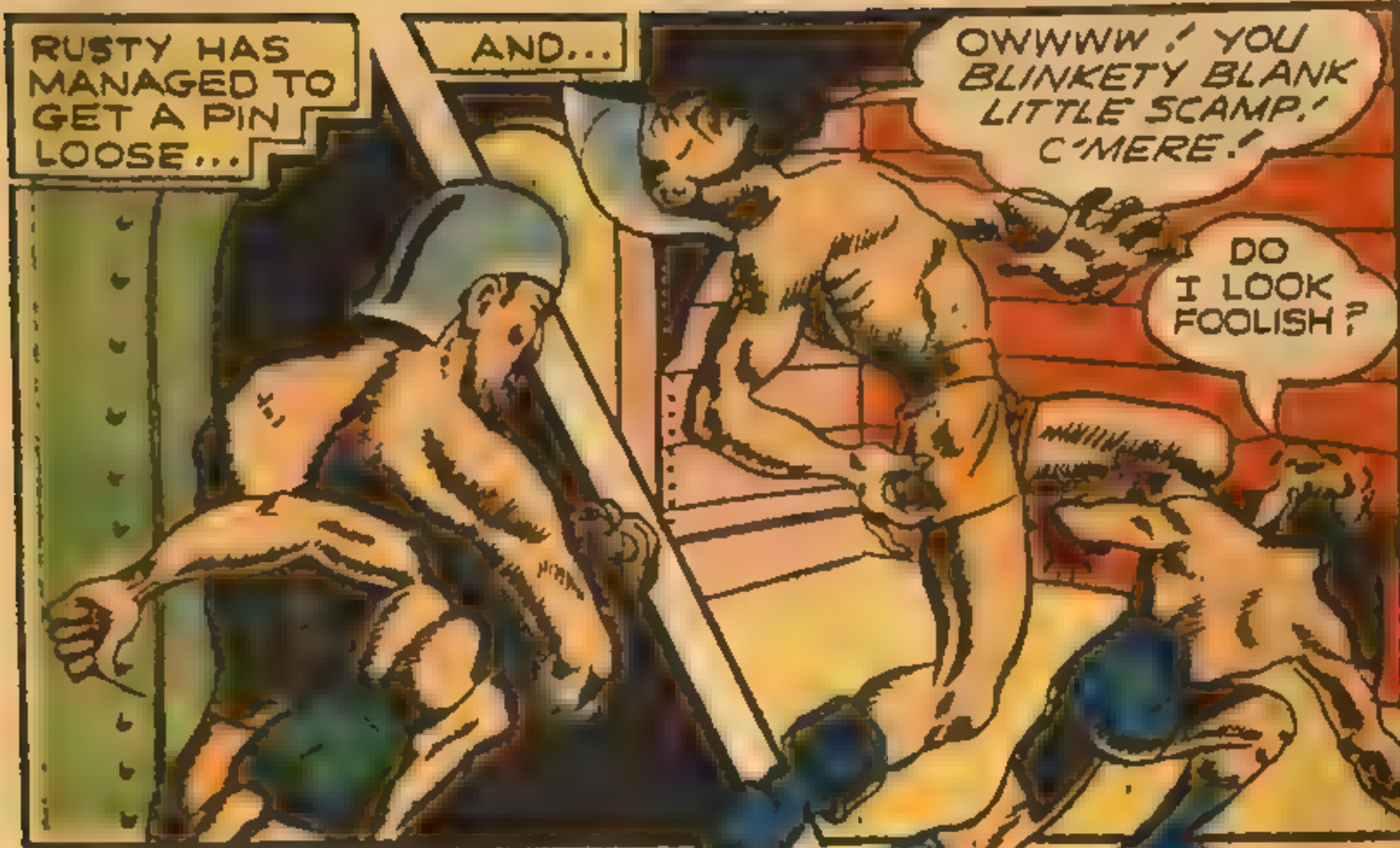
THE DIRTY RAT...

STOP! OR HE'LL KILL RUSTY!

RANDI ARRIVES AT HIS SHIP...



NOW, SCAMP, I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU!



RED COMET, DOLORES, AND RUSTY RETURN IN ANOTHER DARING ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT **PLANET COMICS!**

Molonson

by ALF BJURN



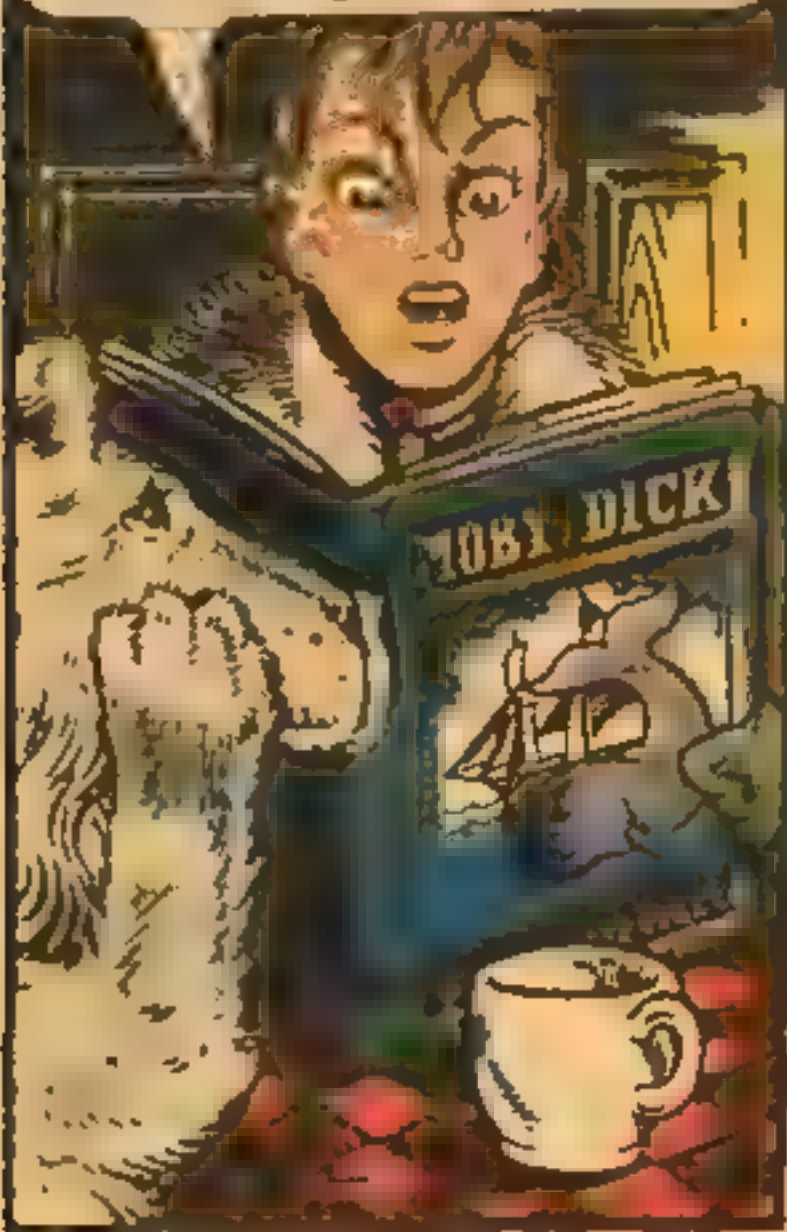
W-W-WELCOME TO THE W-W-WINTRY
P-PLANET P-P-PLUTO, HOME OF
NORGE AND FROSTING, THE P-POLAR
CUB, AND HATRACK THE REINDEER
AND US P-PLUTONIAN P-P-PENGUINS...
AND UNFORTUNATELY S-S-SLUG!

DAT'S ME,
PUNKS!



INSIDE "THE WADDLE INN".

"but no more of this blubbering now, we are going a-whaling and there is plenty of that yet to come."



SUDDENLY, IN BURST THE MAYOR, THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER AND (ALMOST) THE CANDLESTICK MAKER!



SLUG IS ON THE LOOSE! HE'S SHANGHAI-ING EVERYONE IN SIGHT TO GET A CREW FOR HIS WHALING SHIP! NORGE YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

OKAY, MAYOR!

WE'LL THINK IT OVER... COME BACK WEDNESDAY!

OR MAYBE WEDNESDAY WEEK!

THE HOODLUMS ATTACK!



GET THA BUTCHER! GET THE BAKER!

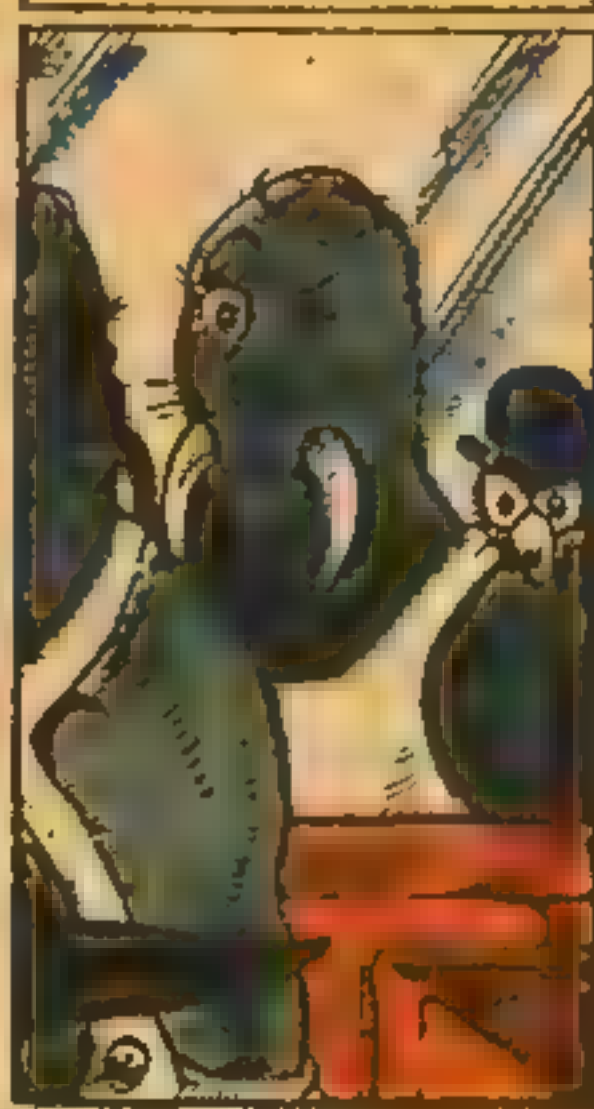
GET THA OTHER GUY!

GOTTA GET OUT!



WE'VE GOTTA STAMP OUT THIS CRIME WAVE! AS YOUR MAYOR I PLEDGE MYSELF TO BLAH BLAH BLAH...

WIGGINS, THE WALRUS, WINKS A SIGNAL!



NORGE SPRINGS TO THE RESCUE.



LEAVE THEM ALONE!

BUT A BOTTLE ENDS THE BATTLE!



BINK

BONK

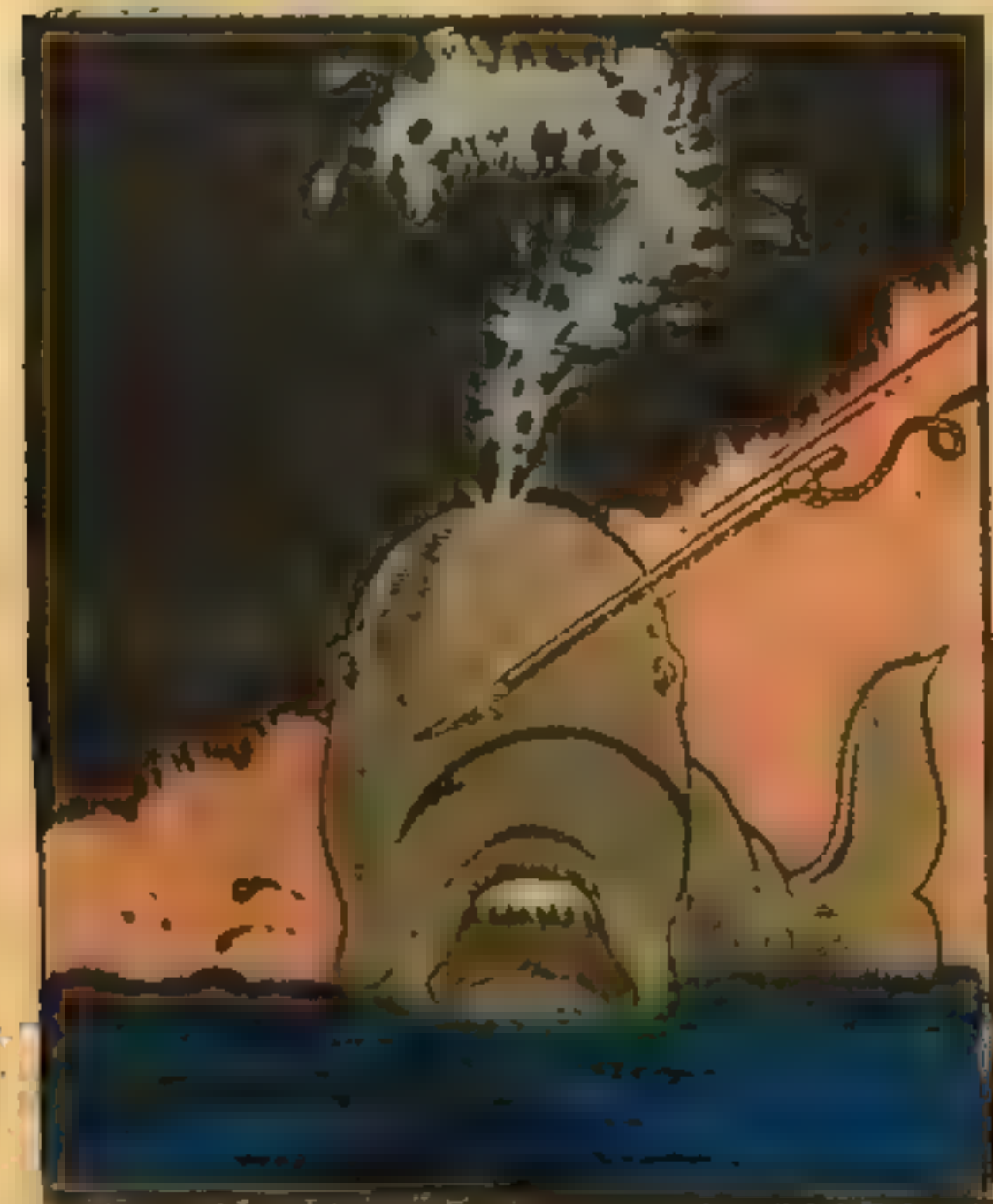
OOF!

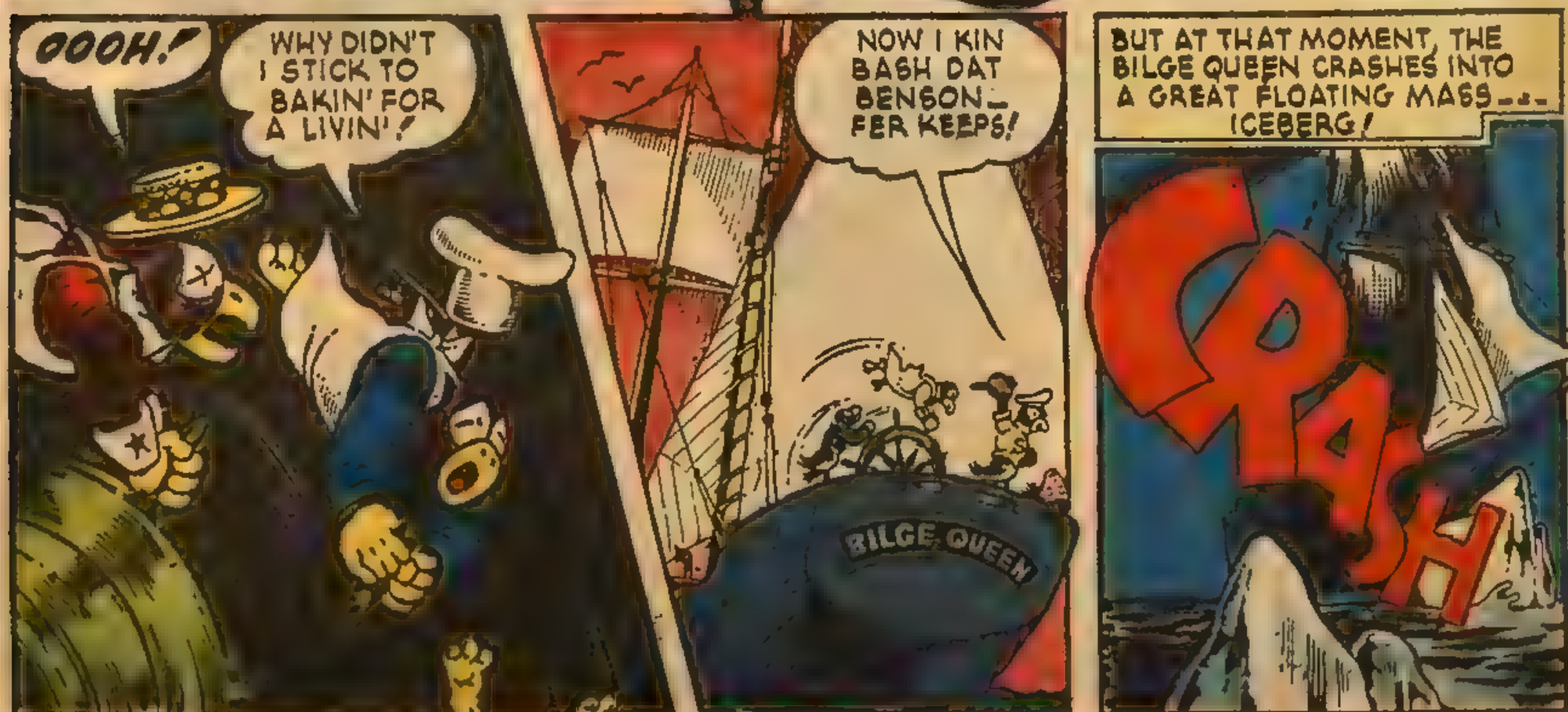
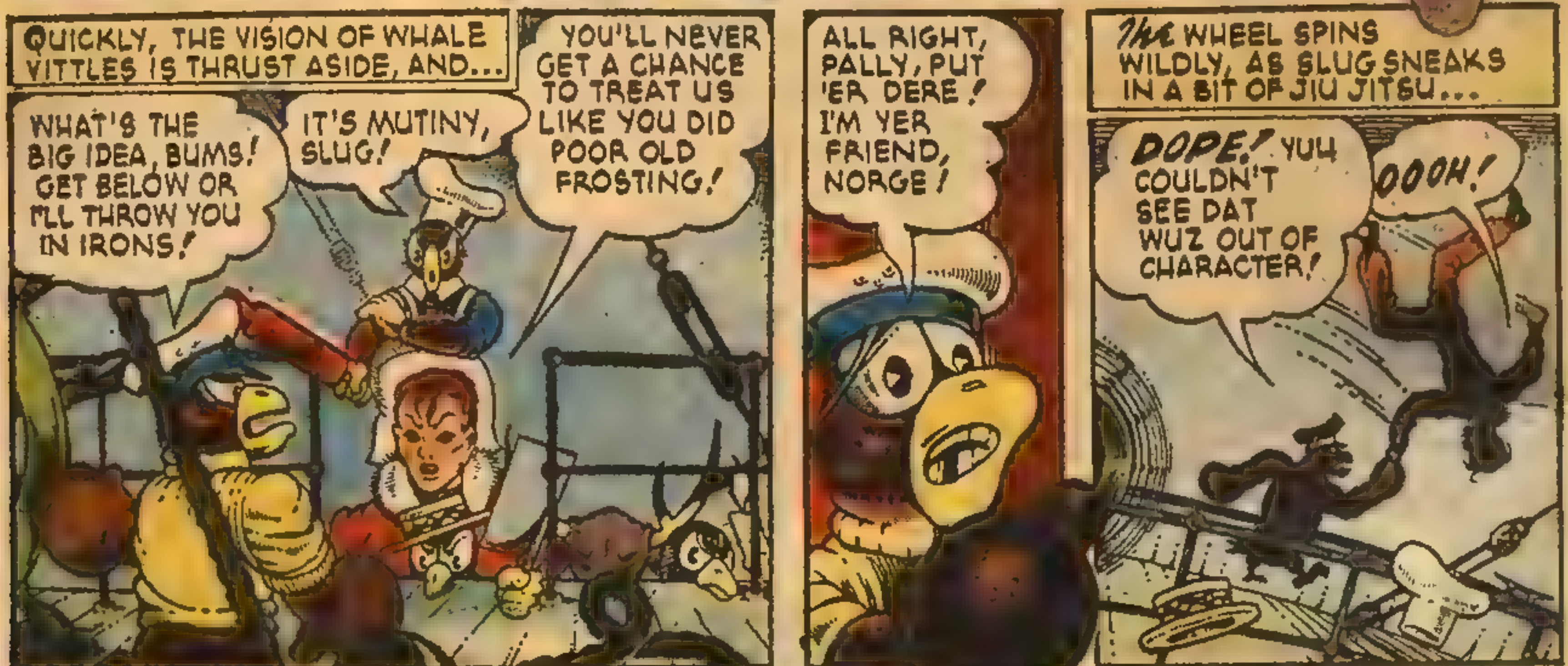


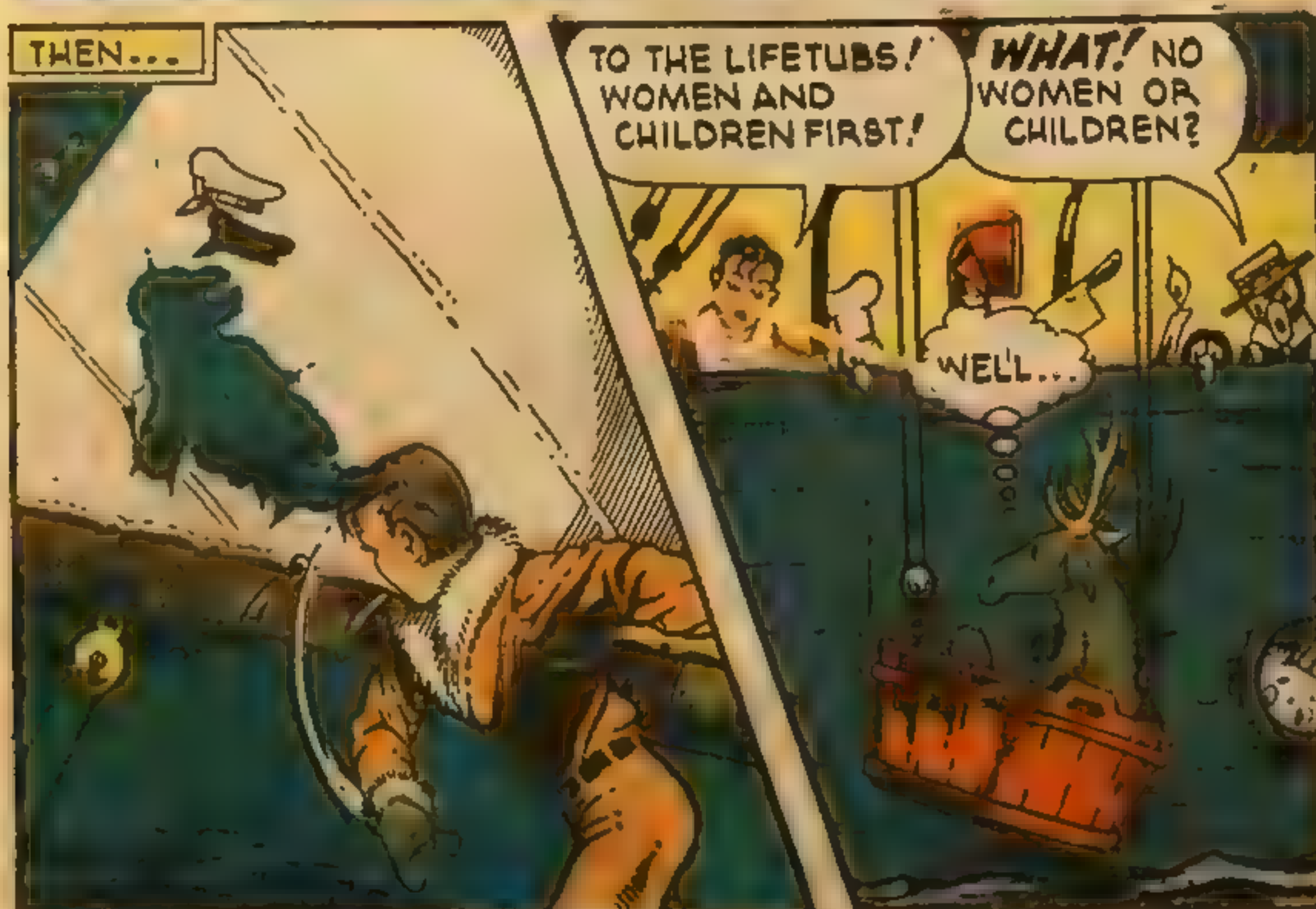
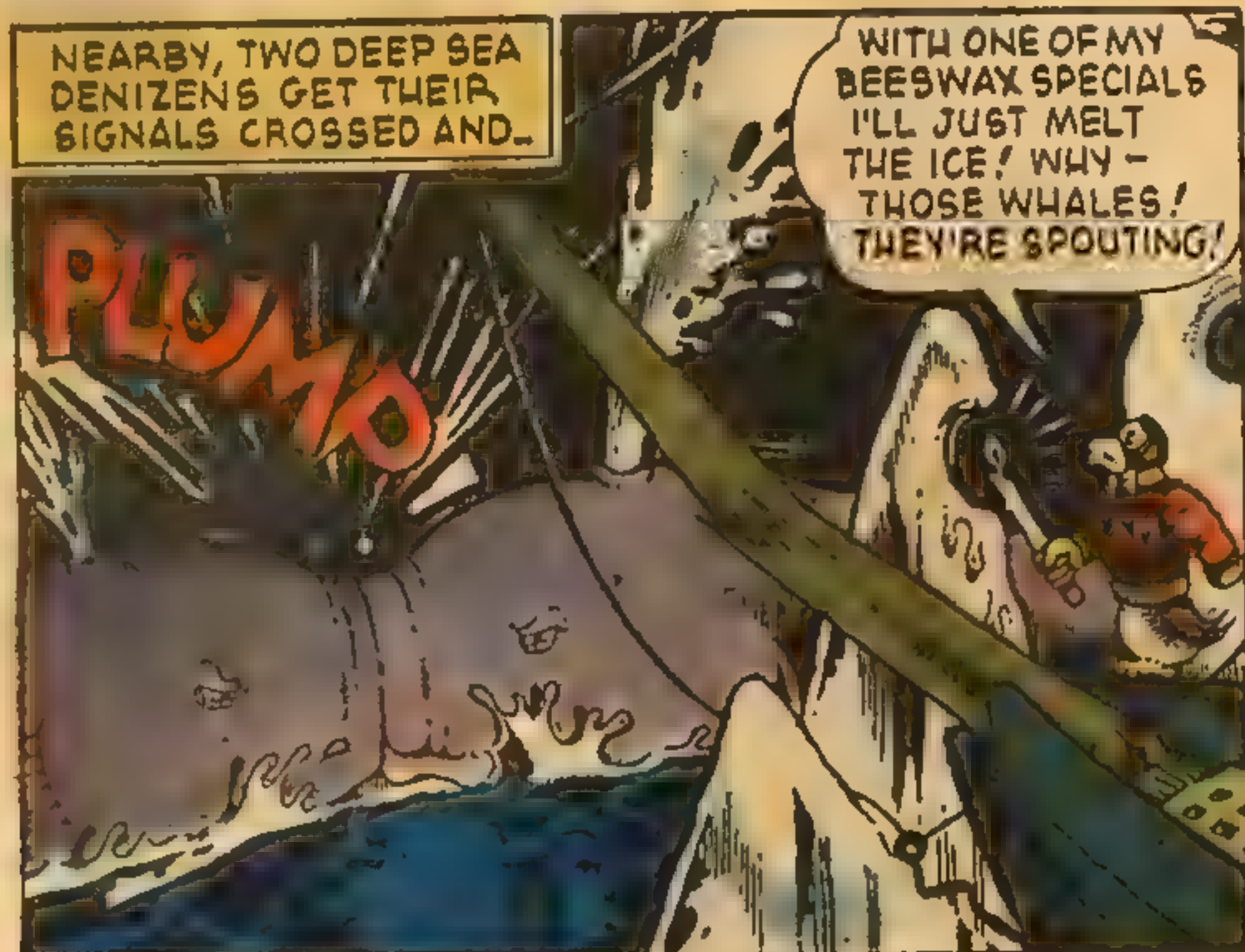
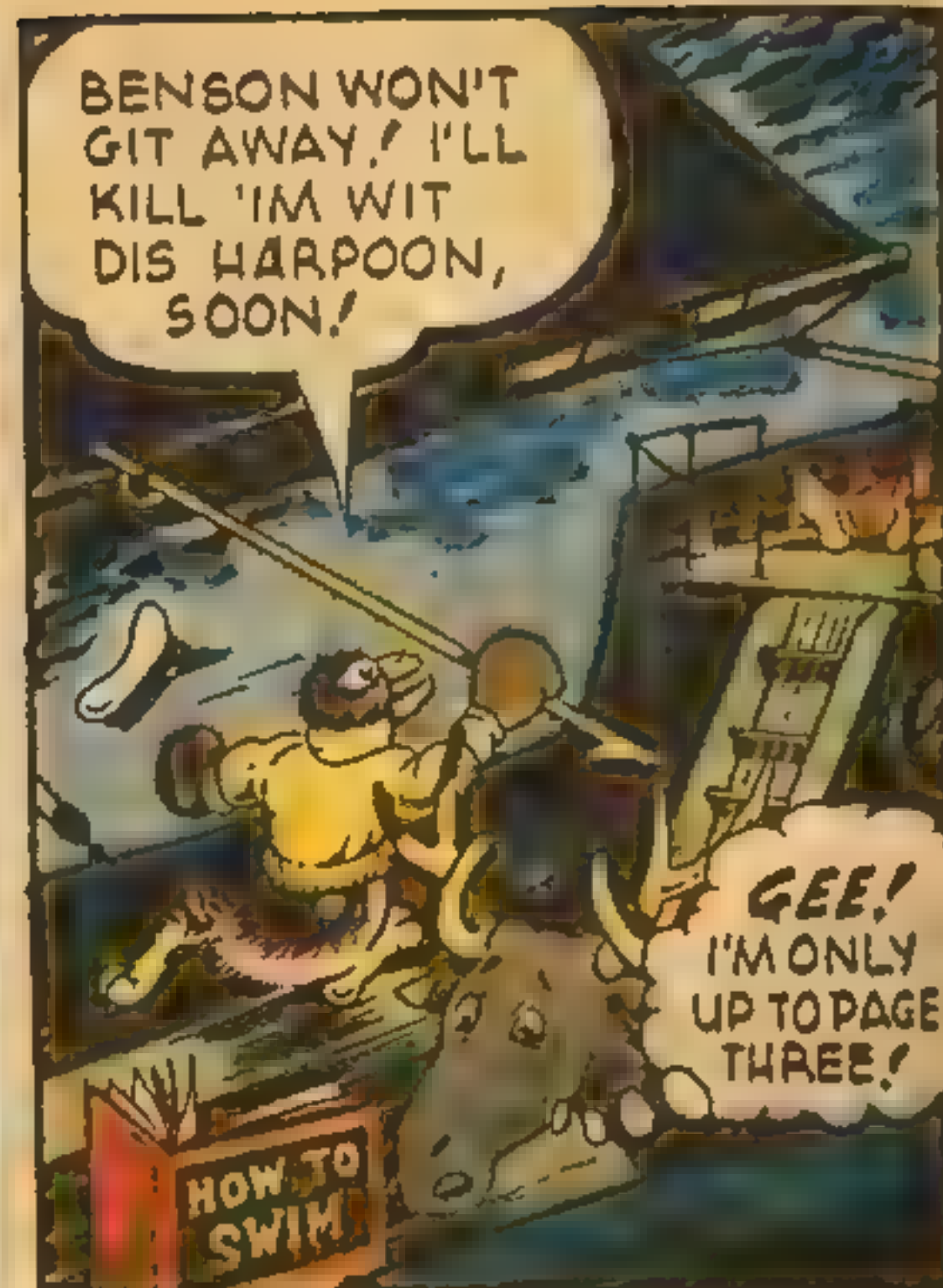
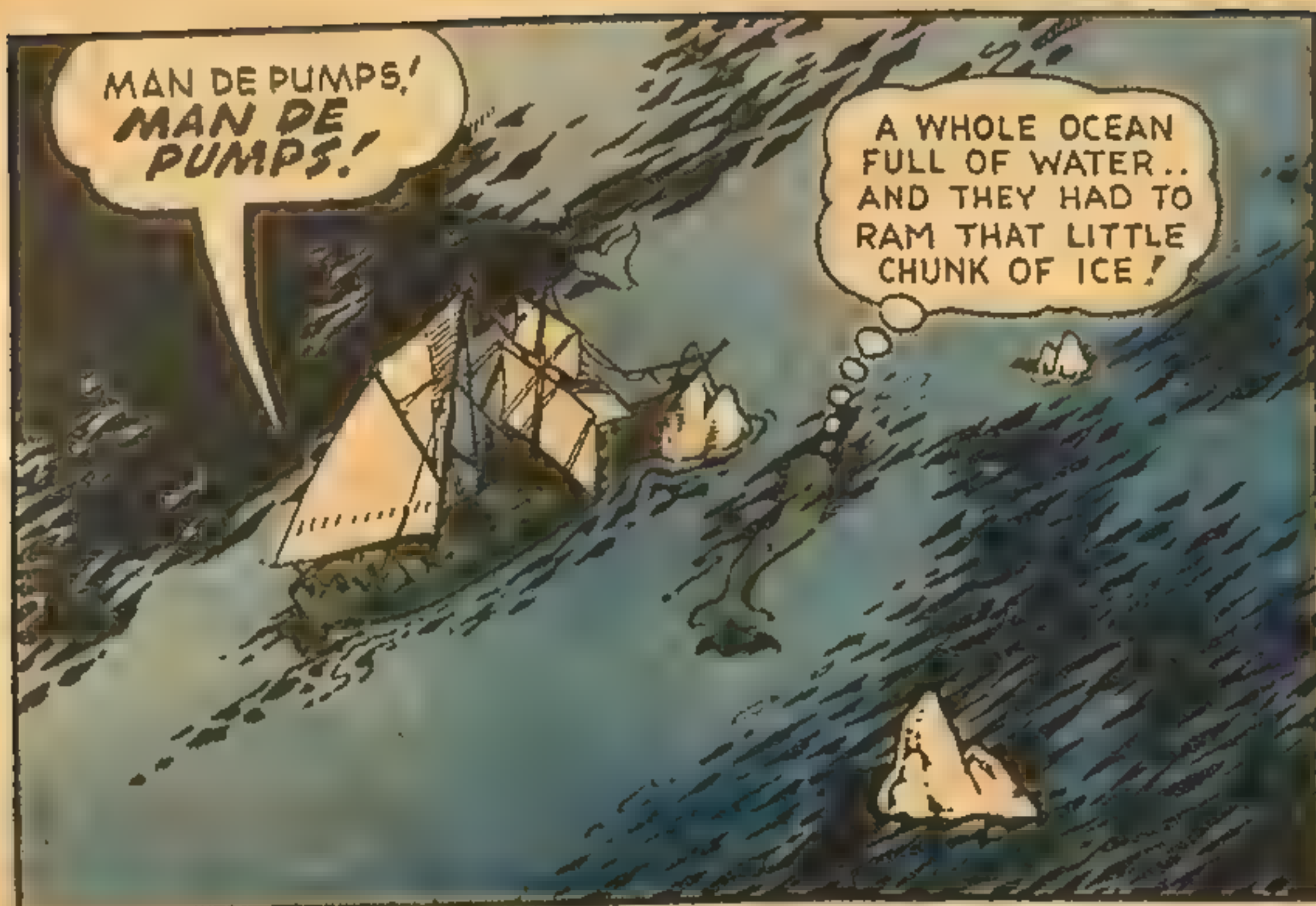
WAIT'LL SLUG SEES THIS HAUL!

WE GOT 'EM ALL!

NEXT MORNING, THE PURPLE, PLUSHY SUN OF PLUTO SILHOUETTES SLUG'S WHALER, AS IT SETS SAIL - WITH ITS KIDNAPPED CREW...









AURO Lord of Jupiter

THROUGH THE BROODING JUPITERIAN FOREST RACE TWO EXCITED FIGURES...

AMNO, WE MUST FIND HELP!! FATHER WILL KILL YOU!

DON'T WORRY, RELLA. THIS WILL ALL WORK OUT RIGHT.



WEARY FROM FEAR AND HASTE, THEY DART PAST A TREE WHERE AURO RELAXES.

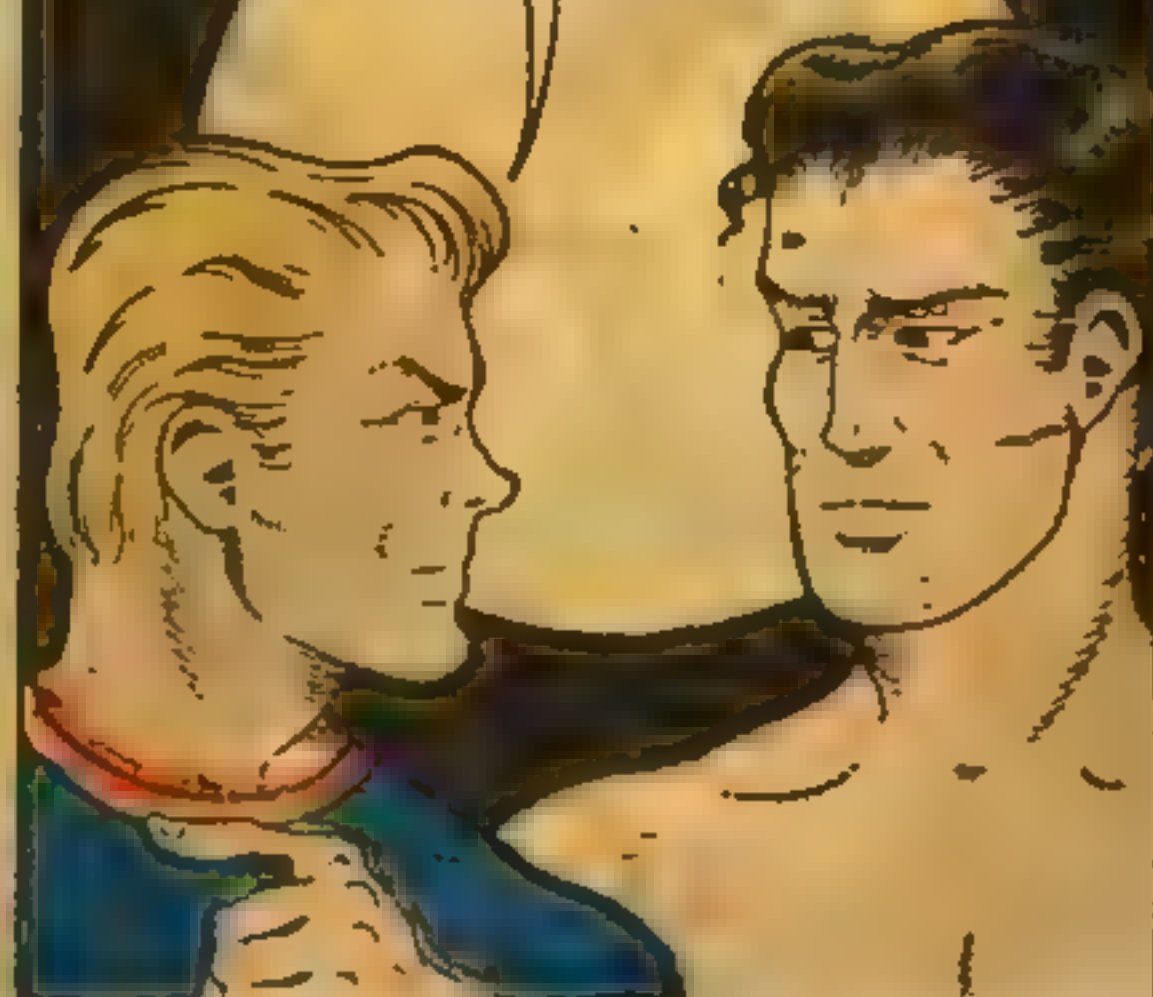
HUH? WHAT'S UP? STOP!



HEY, STOP! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

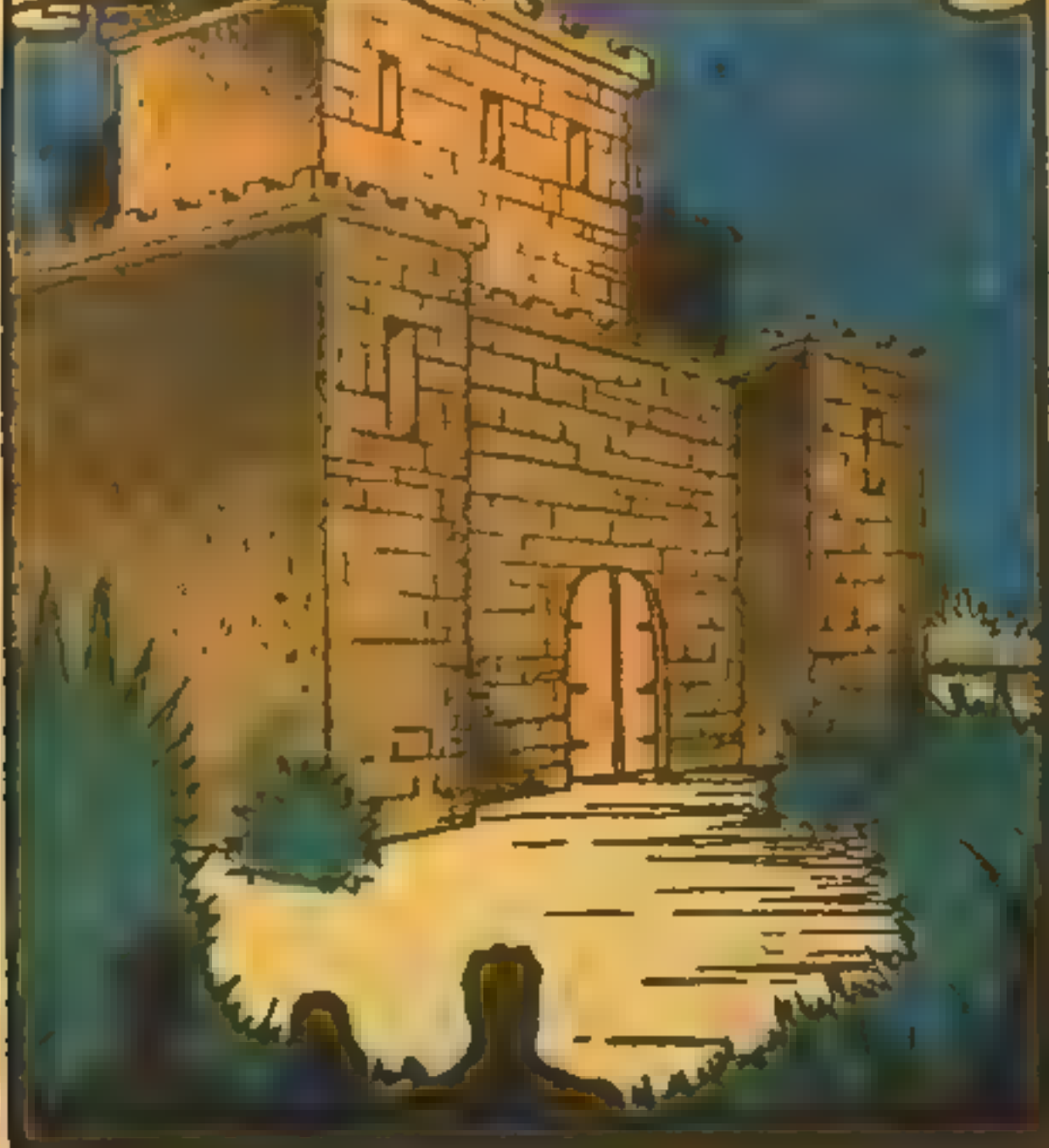


SORRY... WE DIDN'T HEAR YOU.. WE'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM RELLA'S FATHER, BIXO. HE SWORE TO KILL ME RATHER THAN LET ME MARRY HER!





SOON THEY APPROACH BIXO'S LOOMING CITADEL. IT APPEARS SILENT AND UNGUARDED. . .



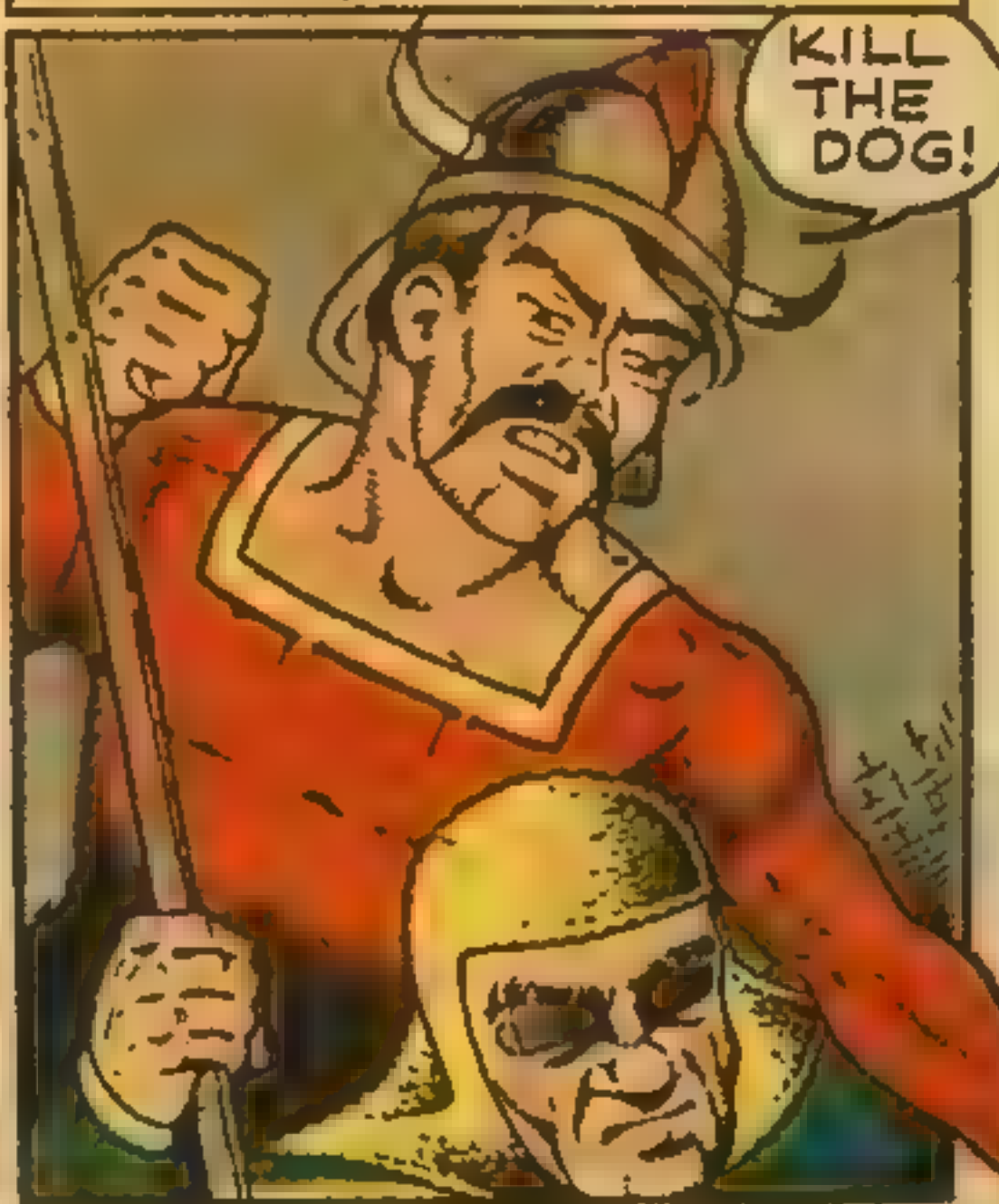
YOU TWO WAIT HERE. . I'LL GO BEARD THE LION IN HIS DEN!



BUT AS AURO PULLS HIMSELF UP THE STEEP CASTLE WALLS,



HE DOES NOT SEE BIXO, WHO FURIOUSLY ORDERS A GUARD TO SHOOT.



KILL THE DOG!

UH-OH! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THIS SILENCE WAS DANGEROUS!



THE DEADLY ARROWS WHIZZ PAST. HE TRIES TO DUCK OUT OF THEIR WAY.

OUR FRIEND BIXO IS IN A TEMPER TODAY!



SUDDENLY HIS VINE SNAPS.



AND AURO TUMBLES INTO SPACE.

DOWN. . DOWN TO THE ENGULFING MIRE BELOW. .





THE HUGE BLOCK OF STONE HURTTLES DOWN DIRECTLY OVER THE SPOT WHERE AURO DISAPPEARED INTO THE MIRE.



FOR A FEW MOMENTS, STILLNESS DESCENDS OVER THE MIRE...



AND THEN A HARDY FIGURE STAGGERS SLOWLY UP ONTO THE BANK.



AURO MEETS THE VICIOUS MOB WITH A POWERFUL ATTACK OF HIS OWN...



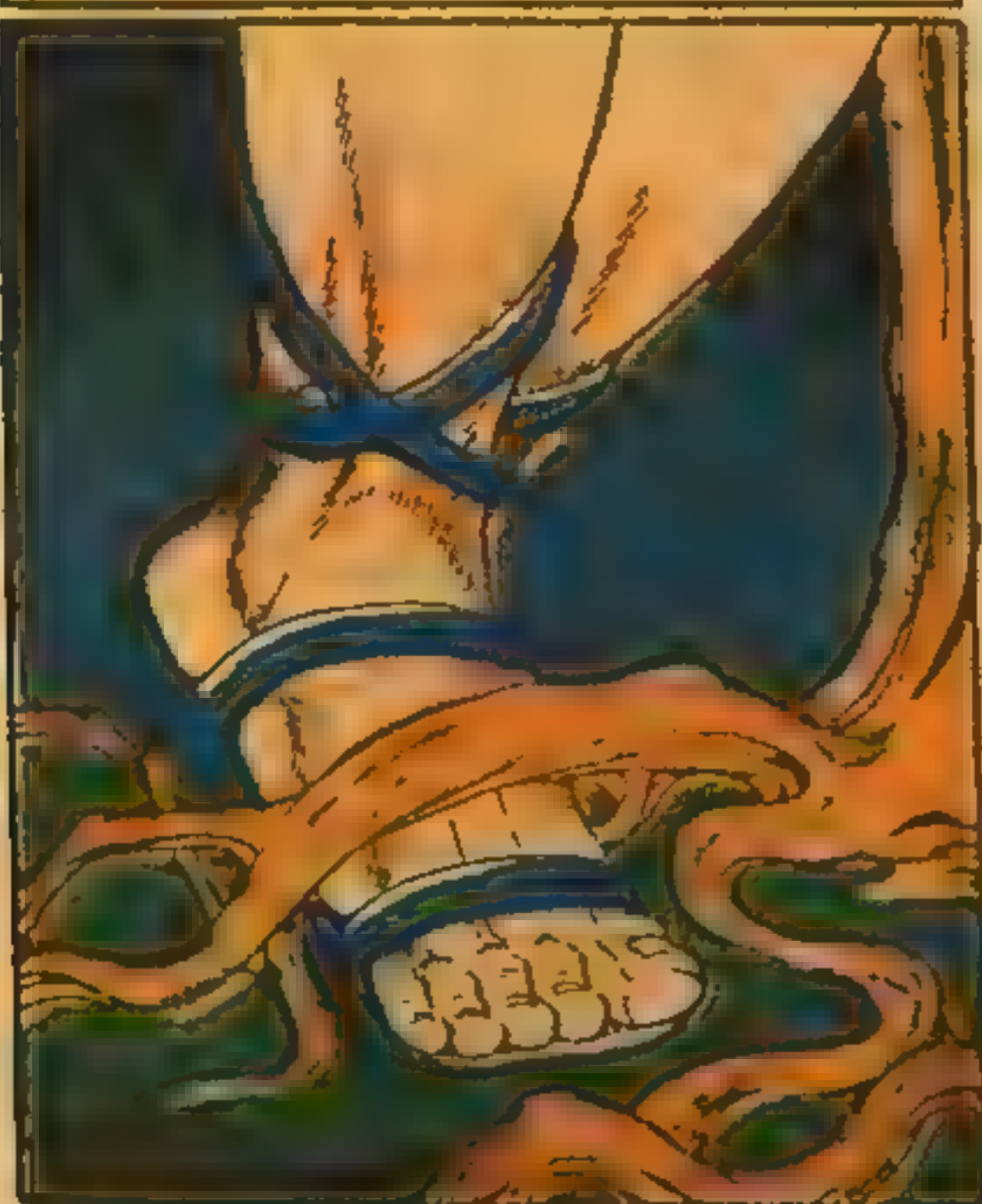
BUT SUDDENLY...



TOGETHER, THE TWO MEN PITCH IN AND CREATE HAVOC AMONG BIXO'S HIRELINGS.



BUT AS THE LAST THUG FLEES, AURO CATCHES HIS FOOT IN A TWISTING JUNIPER ROOT...

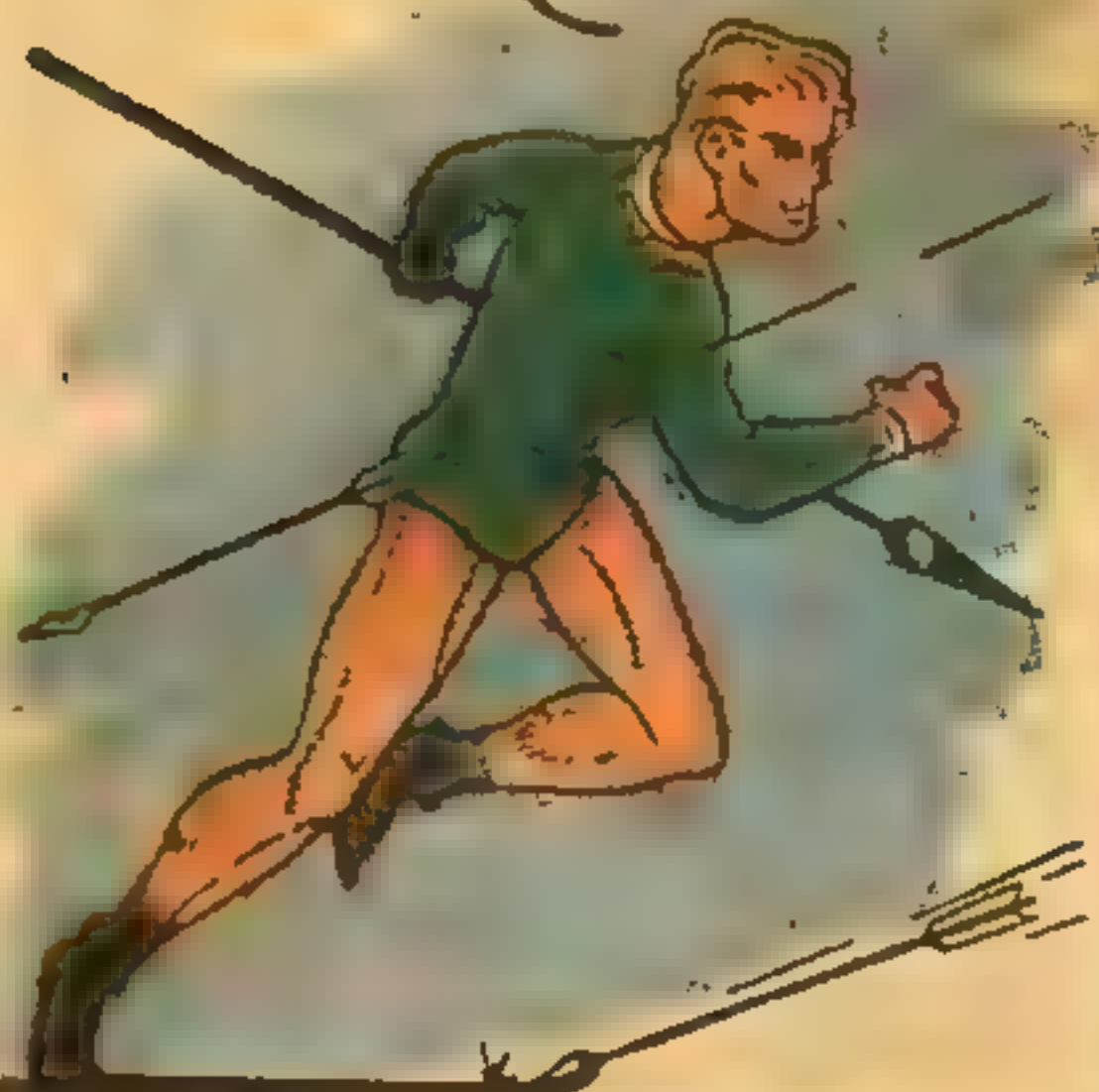


AND HE GOES DOWN... AN EASY TARGET FOR ARCHERS ON ON BIXO'S CITADEL.



RISKING HIS OWN LIFE, AMNO DASHES TO HIS FRIENDS AID.

I'LL SAVE YOU, AURO!



BUT BIXO HAS ANOTHER TRICK TO PLAY. . .

HA! THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE!



PULLING A STOUT ROPE, BIXO OPENS A HUGE DOOR IN THE CITADEL WALL.



AND OUT THUNDERS THE MOST HIDEOUS BEAST ON JUPITER. . . THE DEADLY MAN-EATING BRONTOSAURUS, AGAINST WHOM MERE HUMANS HAVE NO CHANCE. . . .



A BRONTOSAURUS! STAND BACK! I'LL TAKE THIS CHALLENGE!

THIS BEAST IS ALL BRAWN. . . BUT I HAPPEN TO KNOW HE HASN'T A BRAIN IN HIS BODY!



THE MONSTROUS BEAST REARS VICIOUSLY, WITH AURO RIDING ITS GIGANTIC NECK.



THEN IN A SPLIT SECOND IT PLUNGES DOWN, NEARLY SPILLING AURO FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH.



AFTER MOMENTS OF BLOOD-CHILLING STRUGGLE, AURO PLUNGES HIS KNIFE DEEP INTO A VITAL VEIN.



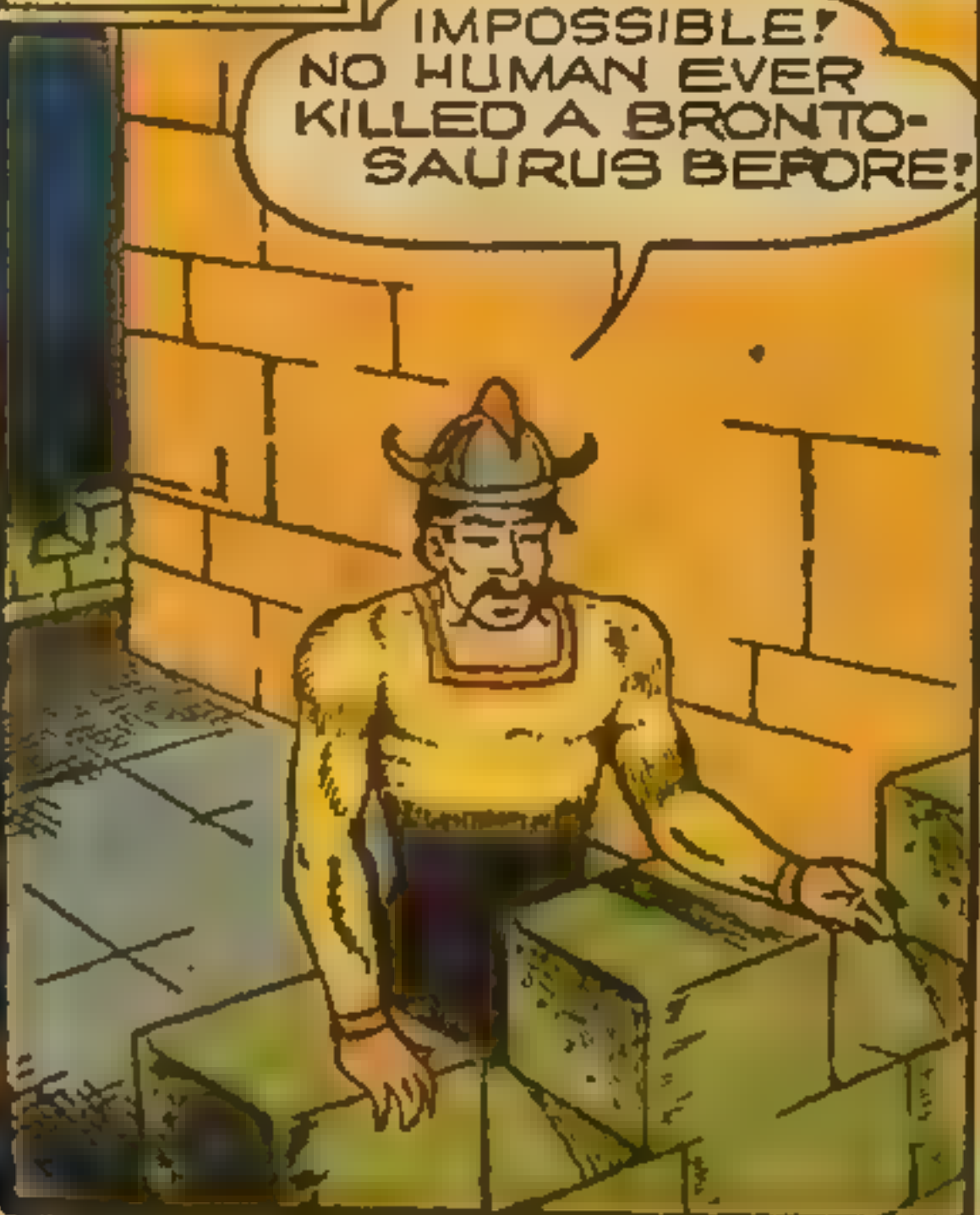
SLOWLY THE DYING CREATURE SINKS TO THE GROUND.



AND IS SWALLOWED UP BY THE GREEDY MIRE WHILE AURO STANDS TRIUMPHANT.



BIXO STARES IN SPEECHLESS WONDER.

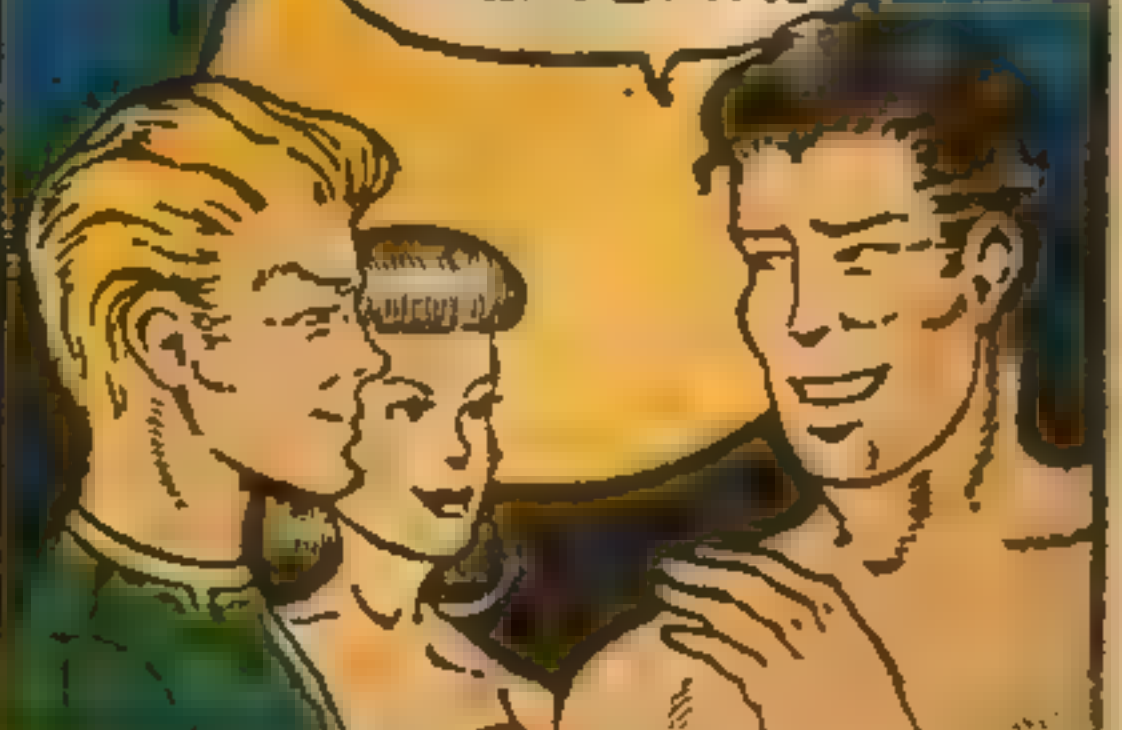


HO, BIXO? YOU HAVE LOST.. AND IF YOU DONT RECEIVE RELLA AND AMMO IN YOUR REALM THEY ARE WELCOME TO LIVE IN MINE!



AURO..WE CAN'T EVER BE GRATEFUL ENOUGH.. I MEAN IF NOT FOR YOU...

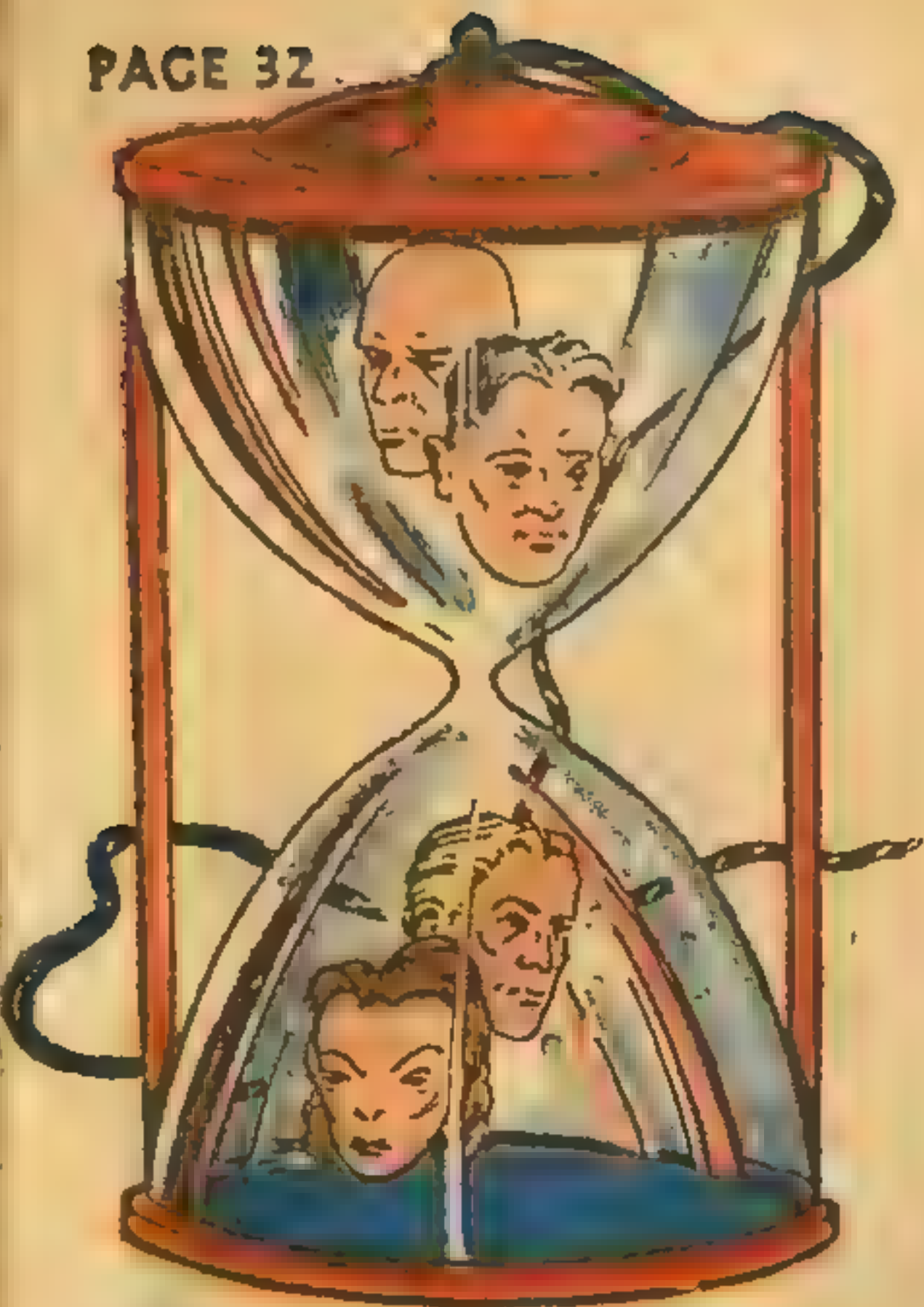
FORGET IT! COME HOME WITH ME. WE'LL MAKE YOU THE BIGGEST WEDDING JUPITER EVER SAW!



AURO MEETS ANOTHER FANTASTIC ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT **PLANET COMICS**

The TEMPLE OF TIME

BJORN ^{by} TAGENS



The great cavern hummed with the preparations for a march to battle. For months the refugee King, Regna and his people had waited for a chance to strike at the usurper Queen Morla.

Now it had come. For in the cavern as Regna's guests were Captain Jeff Drake, Mort Woodruff and Blast Bragen, Earth Expedition scouts lately escaped from Morla's prison. And Regna, leader of a race descended from early Earthmen exploring in space, after listening to Drake's tale, realized that the Earth Expedition, bivouacked under Commander Allers in the far mountains, would certainly aid him to restore peace to the war-mad planet of Parun.

The gray old patriarch had nodded. And to all his people in the winding gaves went the call to arms.

The three Earthmen watched with surprise as arms were assembled. Some revealed their Earth origin. "How long do you suppose these people have been here?" asked Bragen, a gloomy spirit now that he was deprived of his pride and joy, the motors of Drake's wrecked space scout.

"Several generations," answered Drake absently. "They haven't any modern weapons. Neither has Morla."

"The Mad Queen doesn't need 'em," sniffed Woodruff, Drake's navigator. "Not so long as she has plenty of that high-power radiotron."

They stopped abruptly as an eerie blast of a horn echoed through the caverns. "Hear that?" Bragen shook his head to clear it of the echoes still sounding hollowly. "Sounds a little like Boots and Saddles."

"It isn't time," objected Woodruff. "Old Regna and his troops haven't had time to prepare for the march." But Woodruff underestimated the

spirit of the refugee people who for long miserable months had skulked in the caverns, not daring to challenge the might of the usurper Morla. Regna's men were ready—and so were the women. Drake was taken aback when the gray-haired but soldierly king, clad in dully gleaming mail armor, led him toward a slim girl similarly accoutered,

"My daughter, the Princess Lustra," the king explained. "She will march with you, and learn from you the object of the Earth Expedition and the attitude of the Earth Governors toward our planet."

"But—" Drake protested. "A girl!"

The king smiled. "She can march, and fight."

The princess regarded Drake coolly. "And," she added haughtily, "I am not unacquainted with our caverns."

"That's true," Drake conceded hastily. "We have much to learn, King Regna, from your daughter."

The girl, mollified, smiled, and Drake realized that she was lovely. She graciously acknowledged the salutes of Woodruff and Bragen, and gestured to the three Earthmen to follow her.

"I hope she knows the safe routes," muttered Bragen. "I don't like this creeping in tunnels like moles. Give me the sky and a sound motor every time."

The princess overheard him. "The tunnels are safe," she said calmly. "They extend far under the mountains. There is only one place—" Her voice trailed away.

"And that?" prompted Drake.

She turned to face him, and her eyes were troubled. "We must circle one place of danger. The—the Temple." She shuddered so violently that Drake caught her arm to steady her.

"The Temple?"

"The Temple of Time." She had recovered some of her composure. "It is a horrible thing, built by a people

that lived here, and vanished, long before our ancestors came here from Earth."

"Temple of Time!" murmured Woodruff, his mathematician's brain alert. "What could that be?"

"Nobody knows," answered the princess, low-voiced. "It is evil."

Drake asked thoughtfully, "Anybody ever been in it?"

"Two of our councilors went in. Long ago. Their wives waited for them, became desperate, and tried to open the great door. Then out came the councilors."

"What did they say about it?" asked Drake and Woodruff in unison.

"Nothing," said the Princess soberly. "They could say nothing. They were both mad. They died insane."

The three Earthmen were silent. Blast Bragen exhaled gustily. "And we've got to go past that?"

"We are near it now," said the Princess. Bragen gasped, and the three Earthmen exchanged uneasy glances.

They were near the head of the column, which had been going forward at a fast pace over the smooth stone floor of the tunnel. Two hundred paces ahead of them, the torches of the advance guard flickered.

Drake spoke suddenly. "Are there any other entrances to this series of tunnels, Princess Lustra?"

The girl turned, her dark eyes troubled. "There is one—near the Temple. It is the entrance of the ancients to their temple, and our race has never dared seal it, for fear of disaster that might result."

"And that," Drake exclaimed, "is the reason we detour. To avoid contact with any of Morla's forces lurking near the entrance."

The girl nodded. "They would not dare to enter the mountain—"

A bedlam of sound interrupted her. Far ahead, shouts, cries of alarm and the sound of steel clashing on steel resounded. The din of battle

came rocketing back in the tunnel. The Princess Lustra turned a white face to Drake.

"It sounds like an attack! But how—it cannot be! Morla's louts fear the Temple far more than we do!"

Drake racked his brain for the answer to the puzzle. But it eluded him. "Let's go!" he cried, drawing a Regnist sword. "Don't shoot, boys—you might bring the tunnel down on us!" He dashed forward, and the Princess kept pace with Bragen and Woodruff, as they followed.

Several torches had fallen, and the light was dim. But there was flare enough to show that the advanced guard was hard pressed. Attacked without warning, many of the Regnists were falling back, while others lay still on the tunnel floor. As the four rushed forward, the raiders made a vicious thrust and broke through the Regnist rank.

"Quick!" yelled Drake. "This way!" He seized Lustra's wrist and pulled her along the main tunnel.

"No, no!" she cried. "Not that—"

But Bragen seized her other wrist and his jerk jarred the breath out of her. The four raced down the tunnel until a sudden great gleam of light halted them in their tracks.

"Great Jupiter, what's that?" Woodruff cried.

Lustra pointed. "That's it," she panted. "The—the Temple!"

"Whew!" breathed Bragen. "We came the wrong way!"

"I—uh—tried to tell you," gasped Lustra, staring fascinated at the gleaming dome with strange blotches of shadow on its walls.

"Let's get back," urged Drake. "That thing—"

It was too late. Behind them whooped a mad pack—the Morlists who had raided the column. Drake caught sight of the leader.

"So that's it!" he cried, gritting his teeth. As Lustra stared, he explained. "The leader is Redmond, a renegade Earthman. That's the reason they weren't afraid of the Temple. Redmond wouldn't fear it, and must have convinced the Morlists that it was harmless."

"Let's move—they're closing in," said Bragen harshly.

"Where?" gasped Lustra.

Drake hesitated for just an instant. Then—"Into the Temple," he ordered. "Whatever it is, it's better than quick death on the Morlists' swords."

The Princess Lustra's face was white with fear. Woodruff was pale, and Bragen breathed hoarsely. But they moved forward.

Drake led the way to the great door. There was no knob, and he pressed hard against a panel. It held, and he thrust desperately as over his shoulder he saw Redmond, sword drawn, rushing up.

The door yielded, and a terrific suction caught the four, dashed them inside, whirled them dizzily against the smooth walls and then dropped them on the cold stone floor.

They sat up. "Who pulled me in here?" stammered Bragen. Woodruff's eyes asked the same question. The Princess looked about with teeth chattering.

The great rotunda was bare; they were alone in the place. Nor was there any other door.

Then a Voice spoke. A deep voice, vibrant with authority. "What are the tidings, O Solan, from the other worlds?"

The four stared at one another.

A second Voice replied, in respectful tones. "There is war, Master, on the planet called Earth. One called Caesar marches into the land of wild men called Britons . . ."

The Princess fainted. The voices droned on as the three Earthmen attended her. Shadows swirled on the walls, and another voice, a high, feminine voice, cried: "It is the command of Catherine, your Czarina!" and a shout as of an army echoed in the lofty dome.

"Jupiter!" muttered Bragen, wiping perspiration. "This is driving me nuts!"

Hammers were pounding in Drake's own brain. He seemed to be flitting from an era of spears to an era of gunpowder—

"The Temple of Time!" he cried, and laughed shakily. "That's it."

"Time!" a querulous voice answered. "Time never dies!"

Lustra's eyes opened. She trembled violently.

"We've got to get out," gasped Woodruff. "Got to—get—"

Drake with an effort summoned his wits. If they could break out of the door and elude the waiting Redmond and his Morlists—

Suddenly the answer came to him. "Quick!" he shouted to his comrades. "To the door!" He rushed them to the entrance. "Hang on to the door jamb! I'm going to open it!"

Before they could protest he heaved, and was flung against the wall as the door flew open. But he clung to the portal. A rush of Morlists, Redmond among them, whirled in, clanging against the walls as the suction swept them off their feet. Lustra screamed.

"Now!" yelled Drake. And the four, gasping with effort, crawled through the doorway, clinging to the flagged entry floor as the suction plucked at them, until the door slammed.

They rushed away from the Temple into the now silent tunnel. The raid had failed—all the Morlists were imprisoned in the amazing Temple.

"Thank the stars!" wheezed Bragen. "Wh-what was it?"

"The Temple of Time," Drake answered soberly. "It must possess some sort of unholy vacuum, channeled to allow the door to open. A temple that keeps voices alive for generations!"

"It is evil!" cried Lustra, her dark eyes flashing.

"I'm not so sure," muttered Drake. "Anyone who could solve its mysteries might have something of great value."

Bragen scowled heartily at the glowing dome behind them. "You can have my share," he declared. Drake, judging by the expressions on the faces of Woodruff and the slim Princess, saw that they agreed with the bluff engineer.



BY
HUGH FITZHUGH

REEF



RYAN



REEF, PLEASE
DON'T GO.. IT'S
DANGEROUS
IN THOSE CAVES.

DONT WORRY,
VARA, IT'S
JUST A
SCOUTING
TRIP, I'LL
BE BACK SOON.

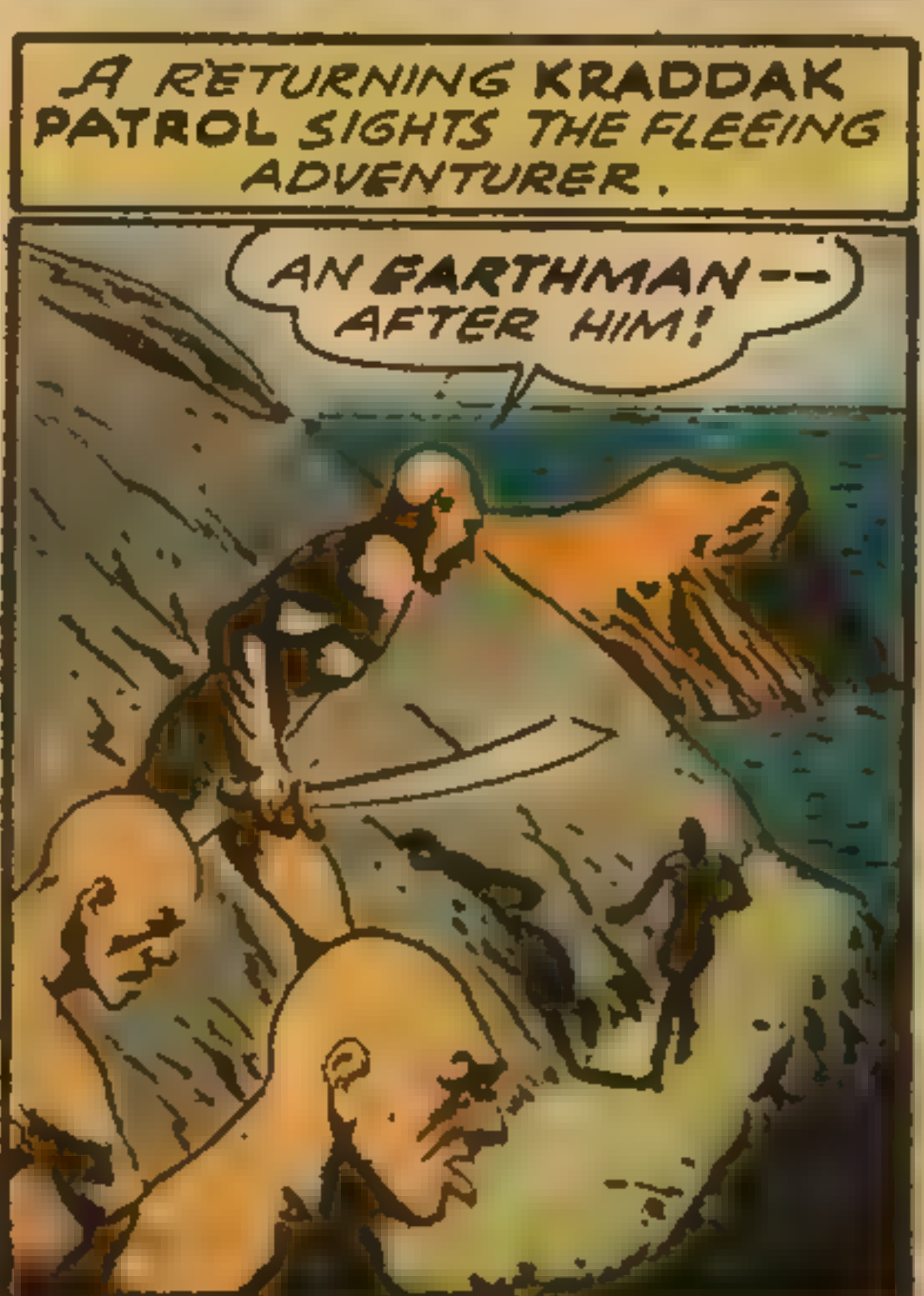
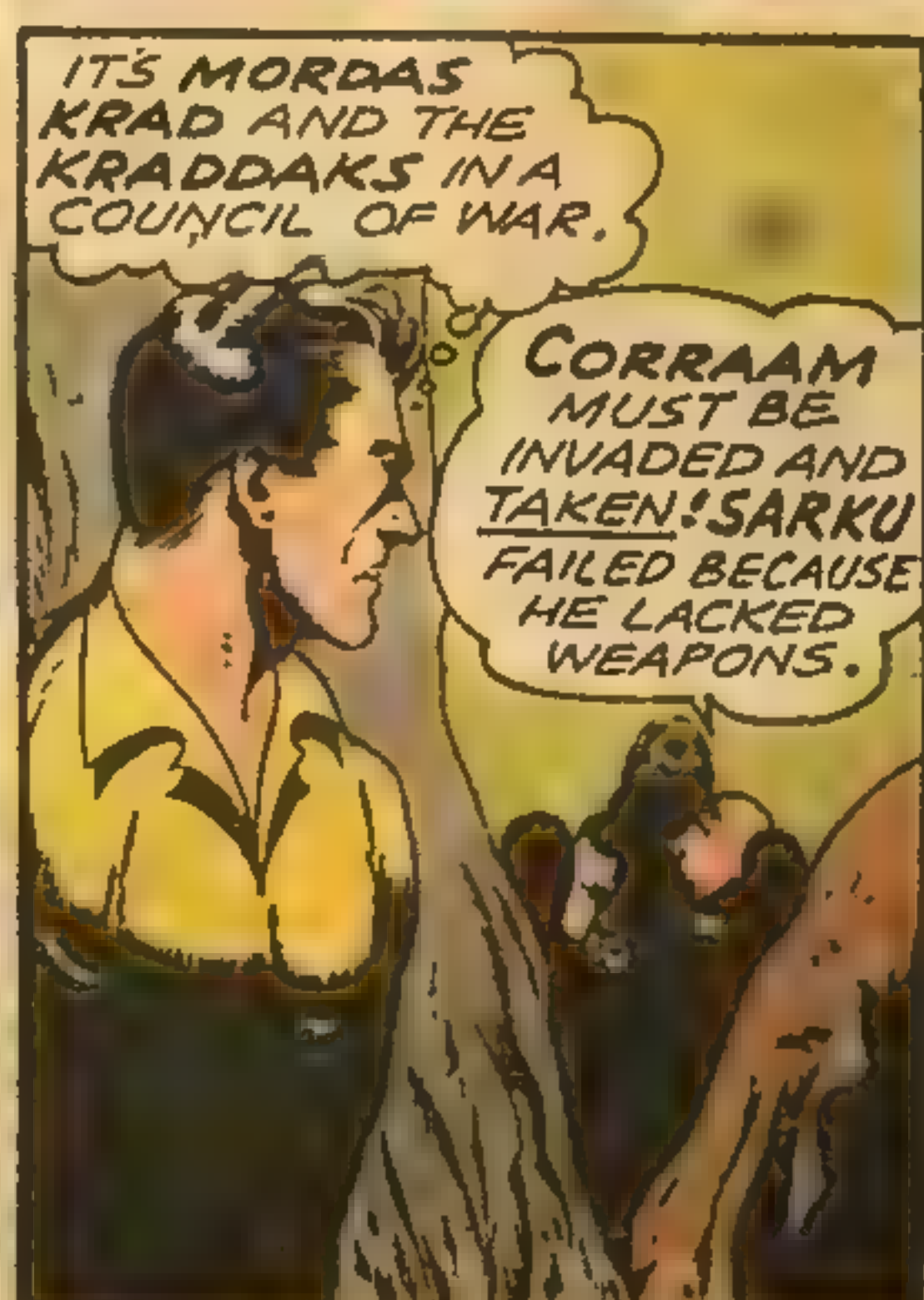
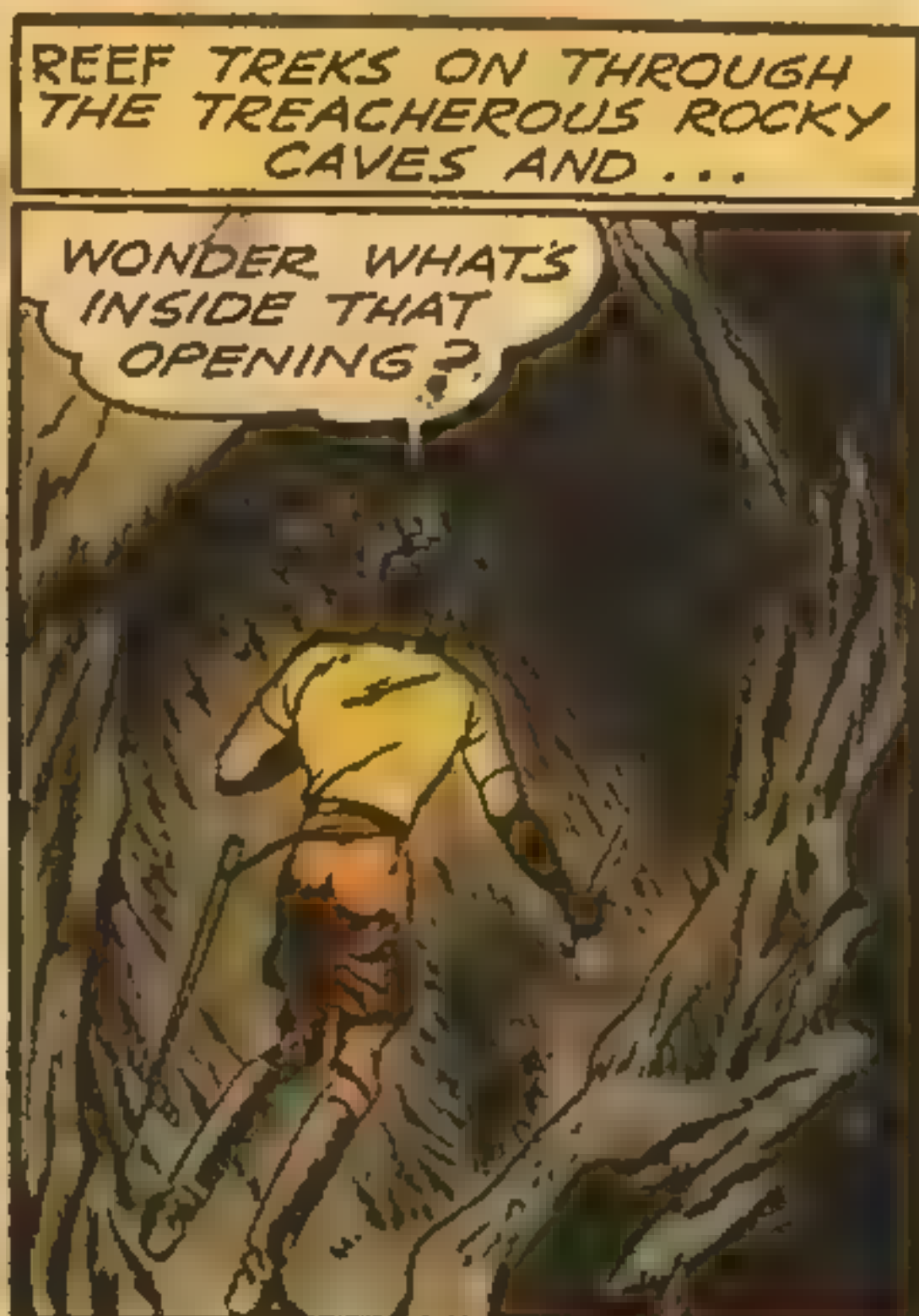


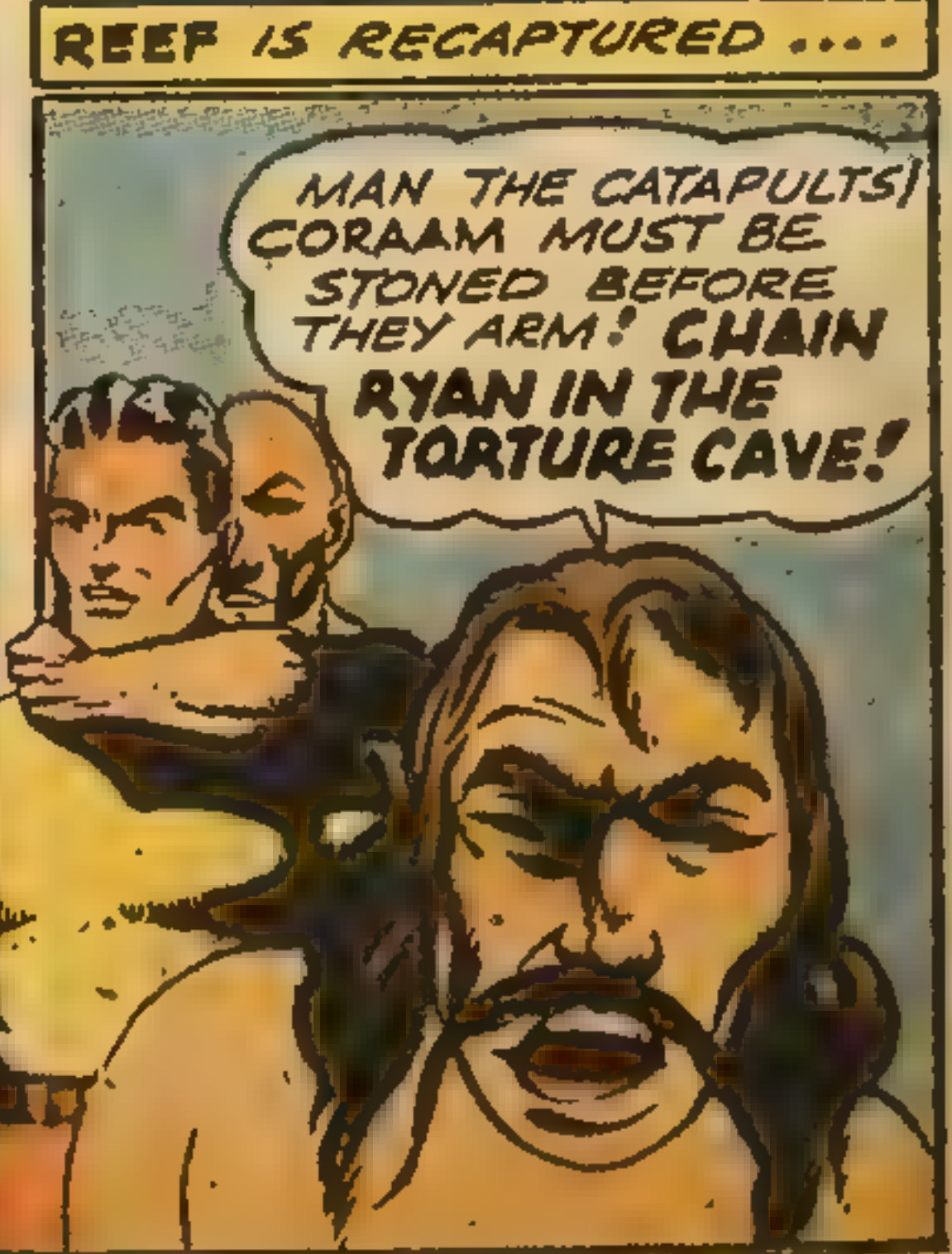
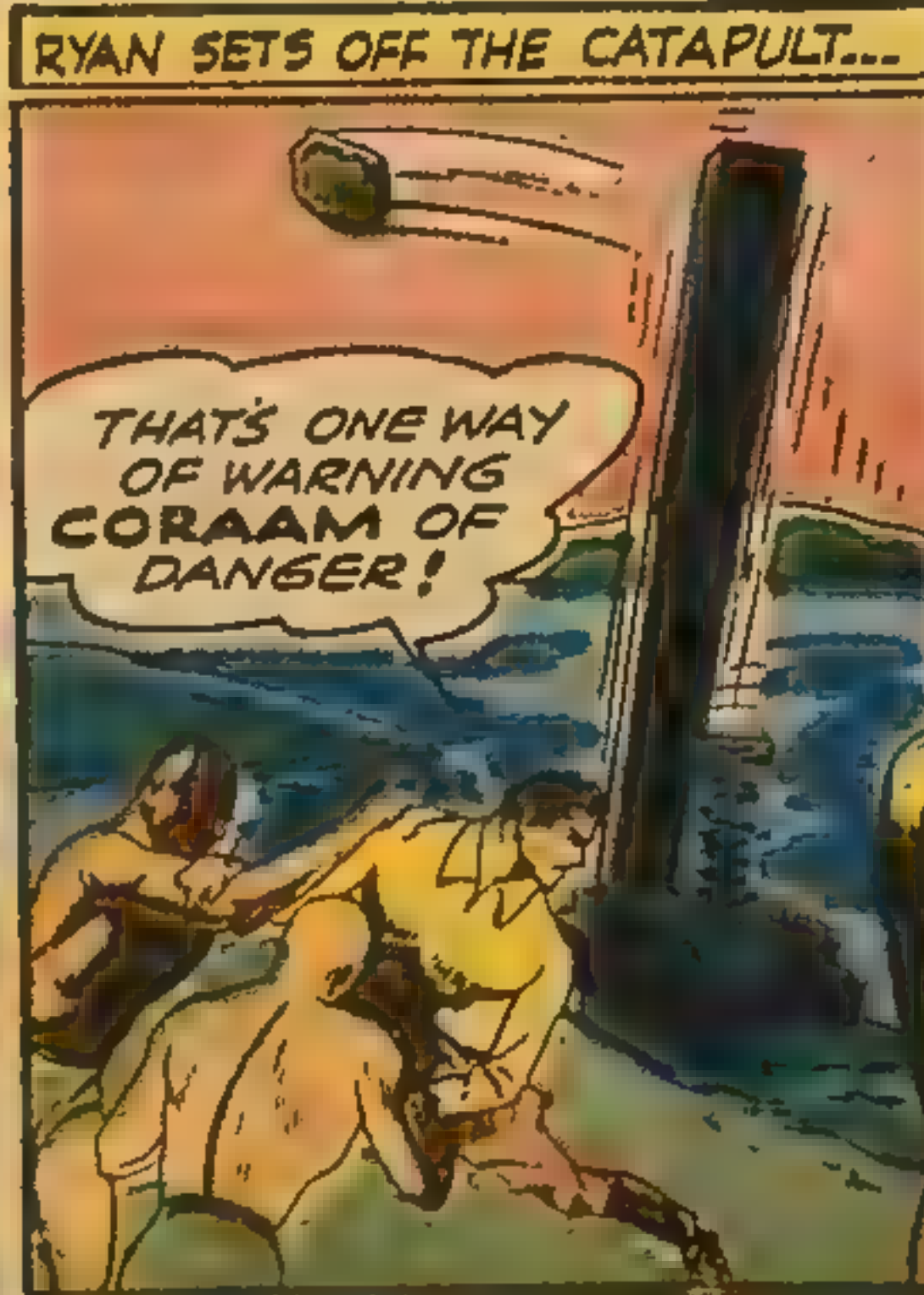
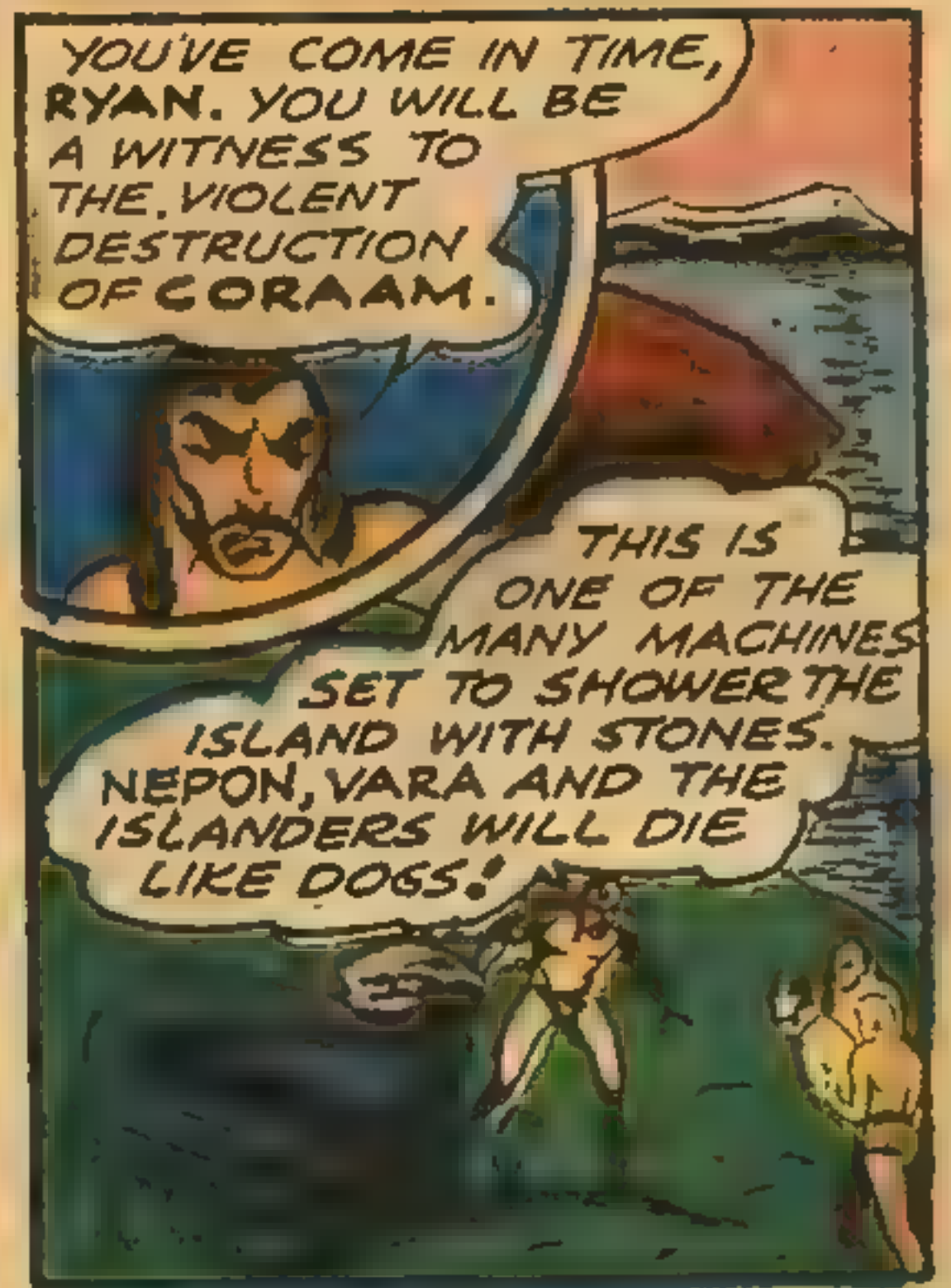
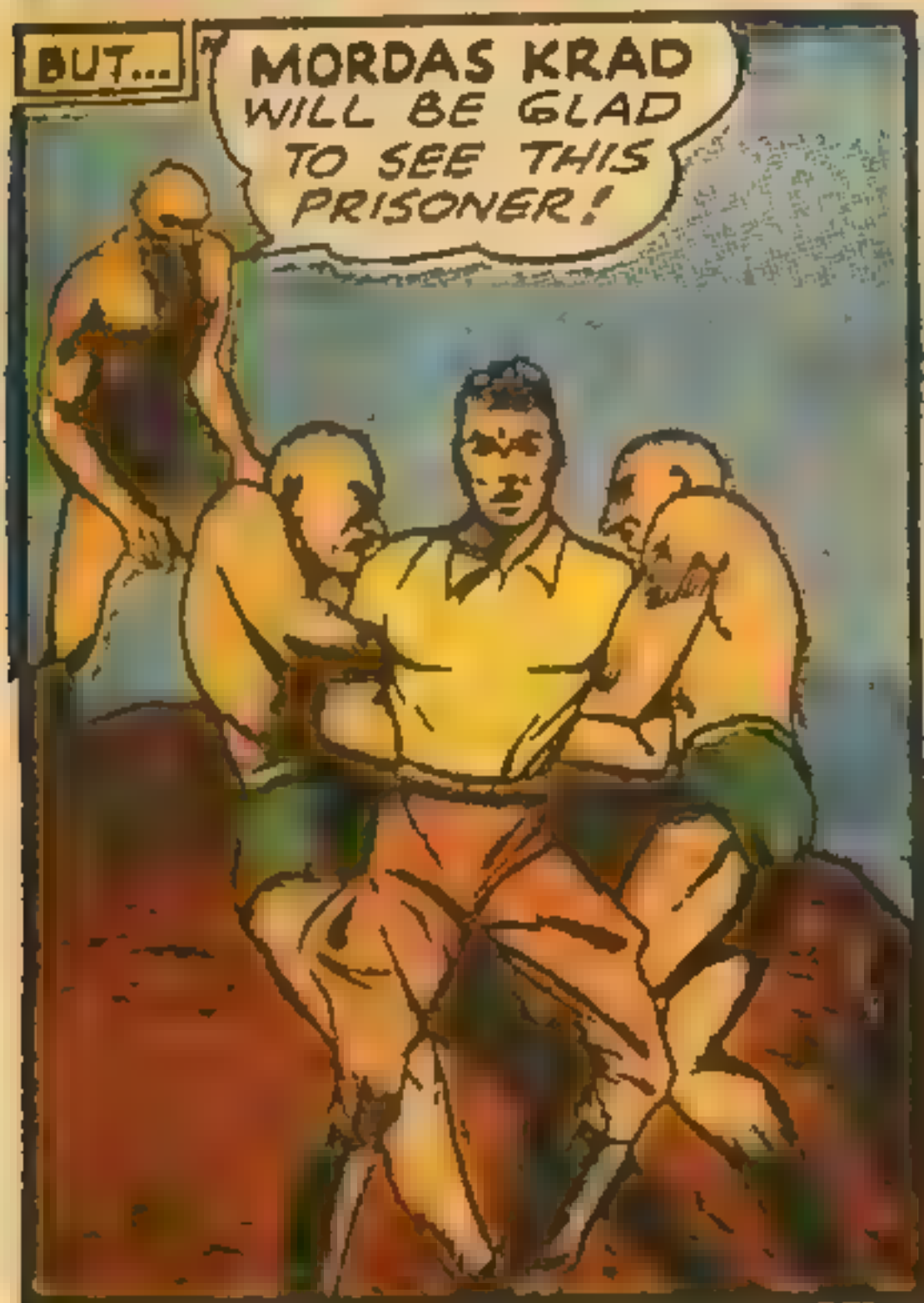
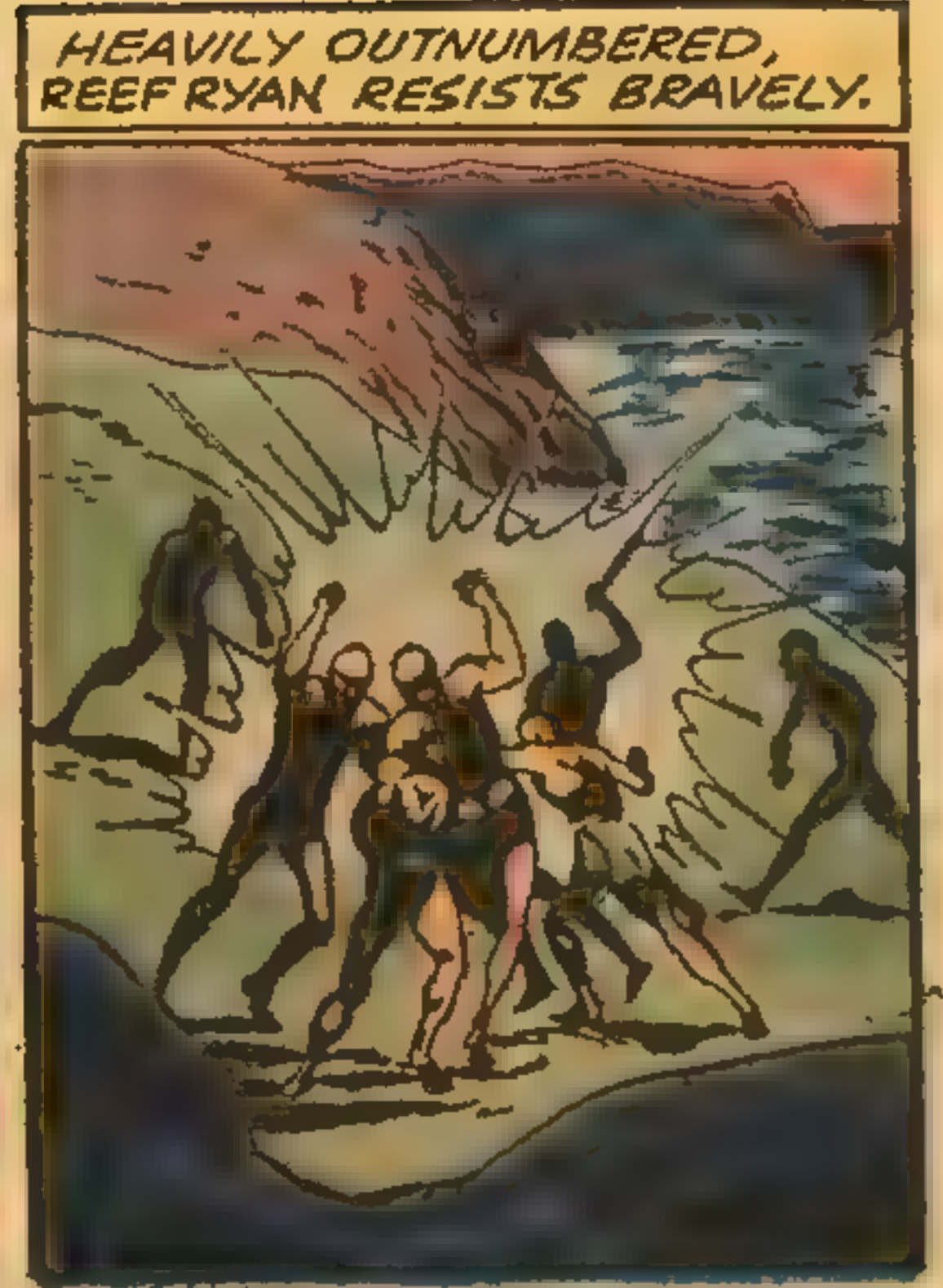
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS...

MORDAS KRAD
AND HIS CAVE
DWELLERS
SHOULD BE AT
THE TOP OF
THIS CLIFF!

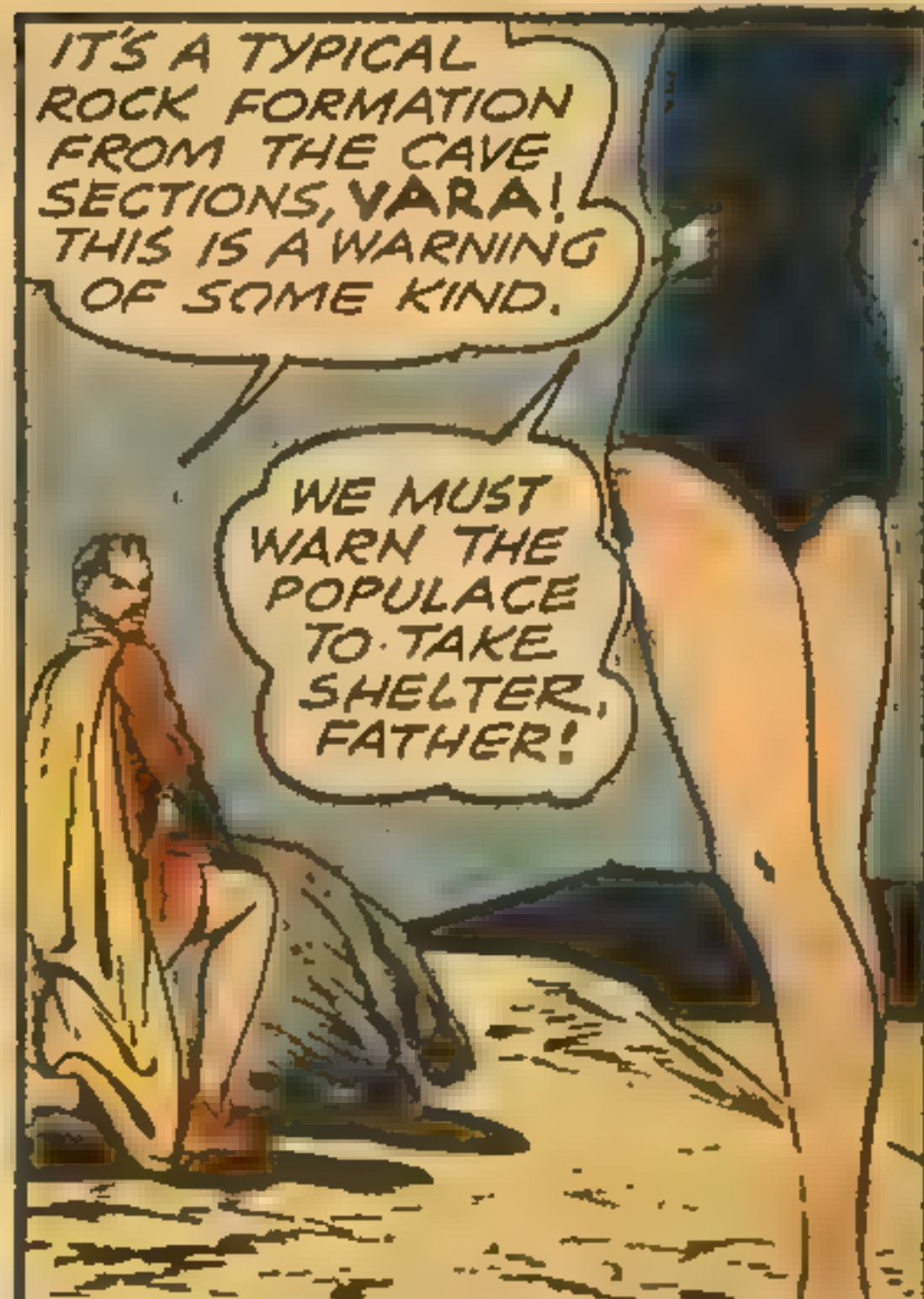
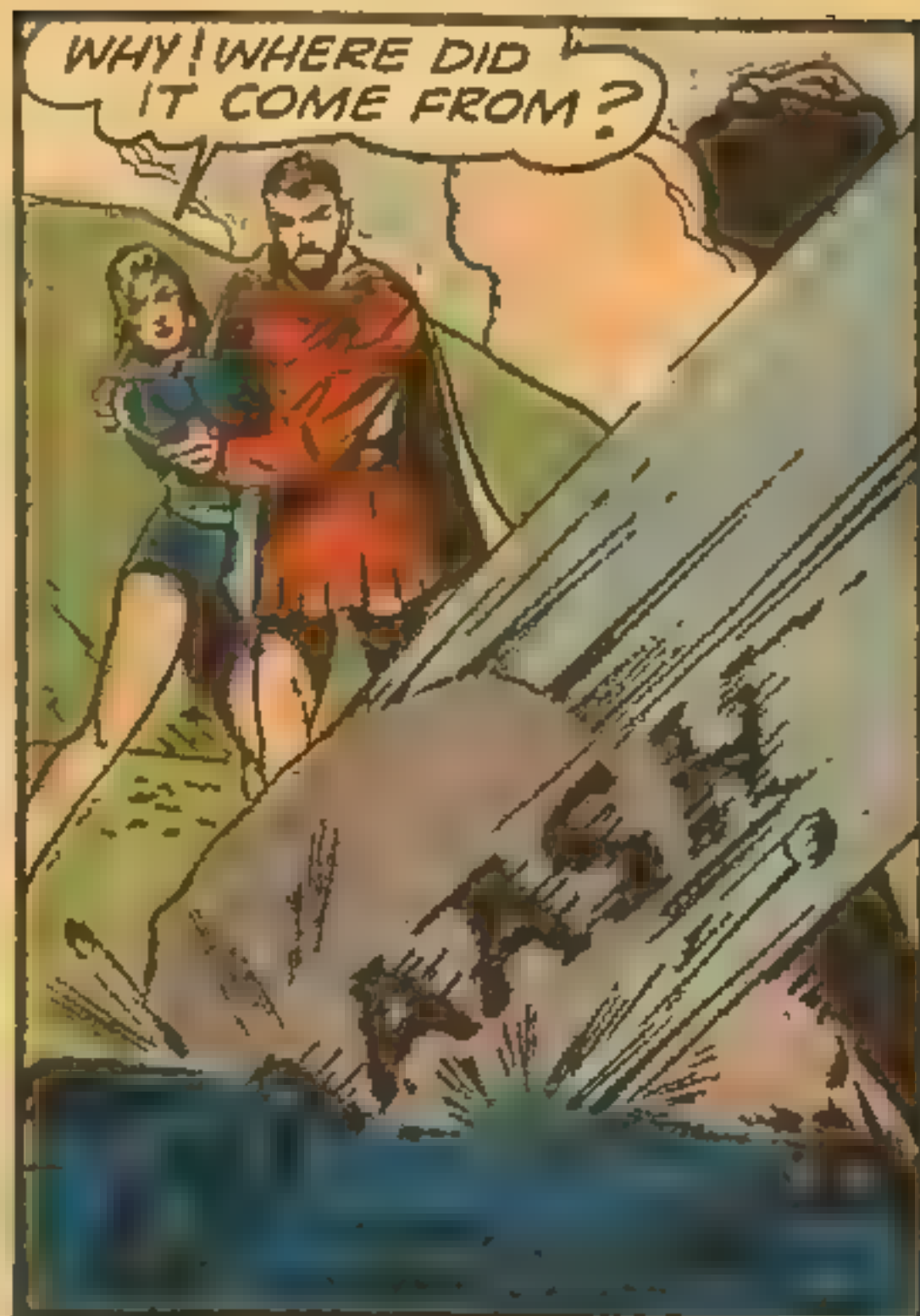


THE CAVES MUST
BE.... WHAT
THE --!





MEANWHILE, ON THE ISLAND OF CORAAM...



WARNED, THE CORAAMITES RACE FOR SHELTER...



VARA AND A PICKED CREW LEAVE FOR THE CAVES.

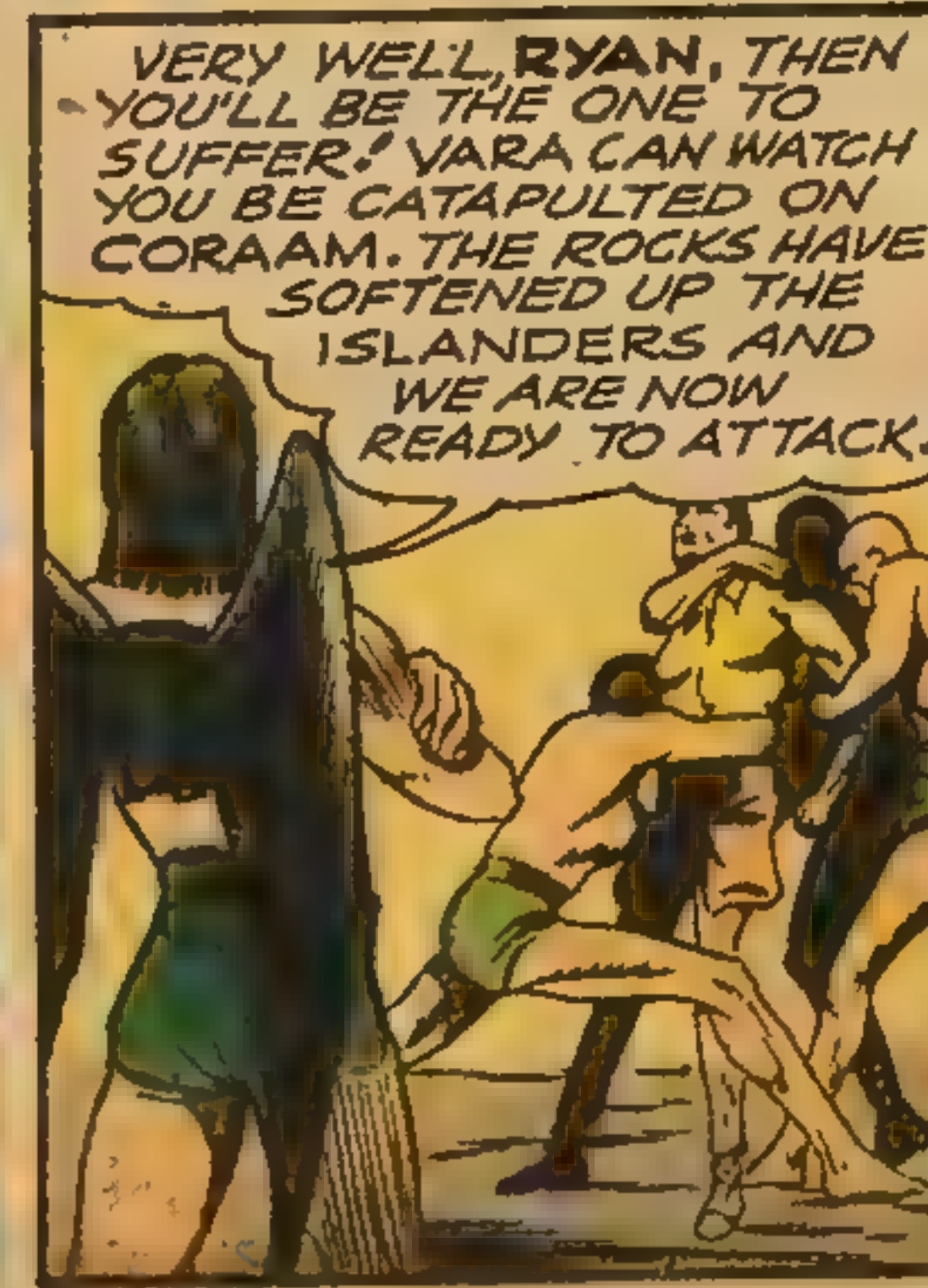


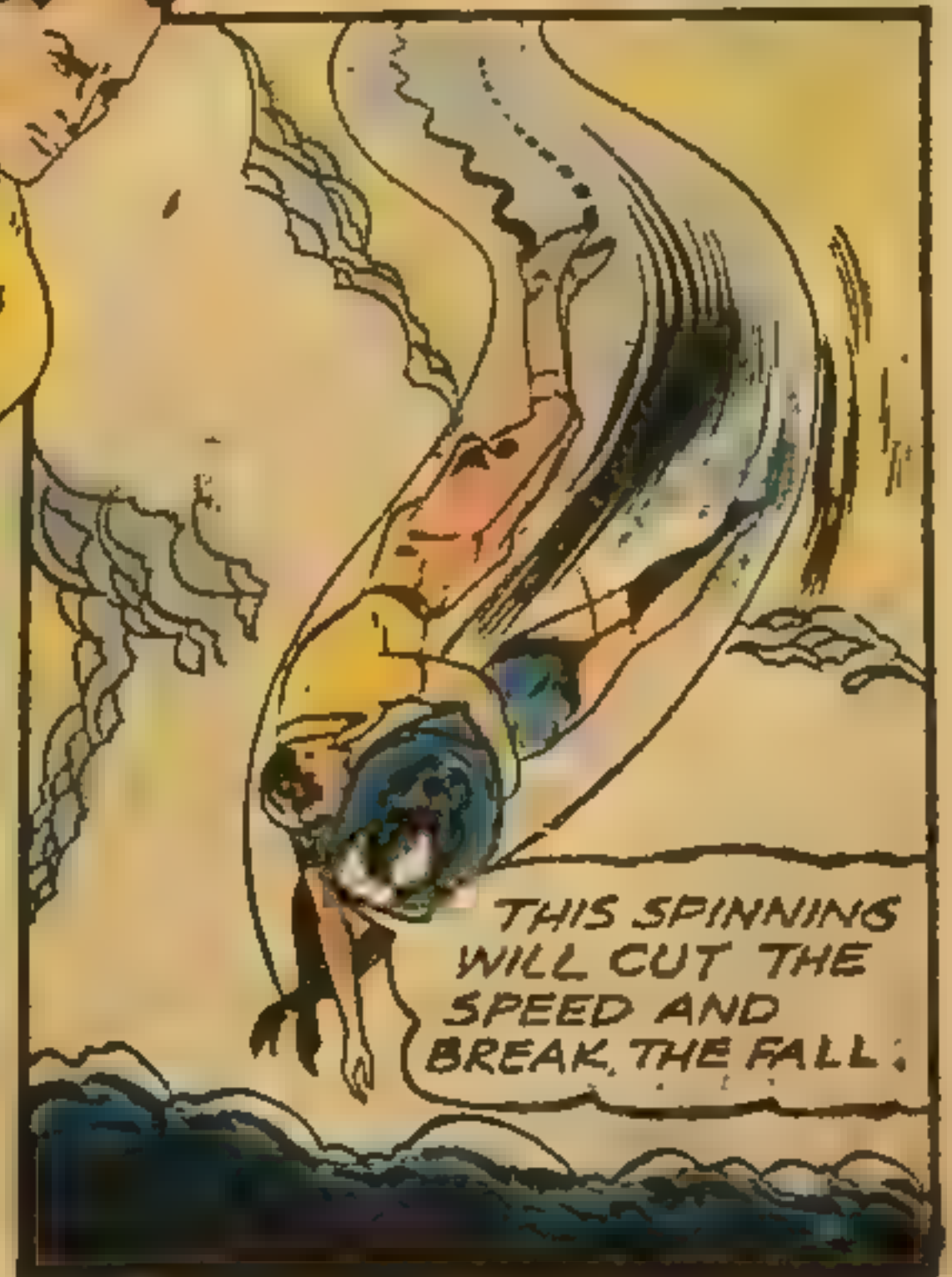
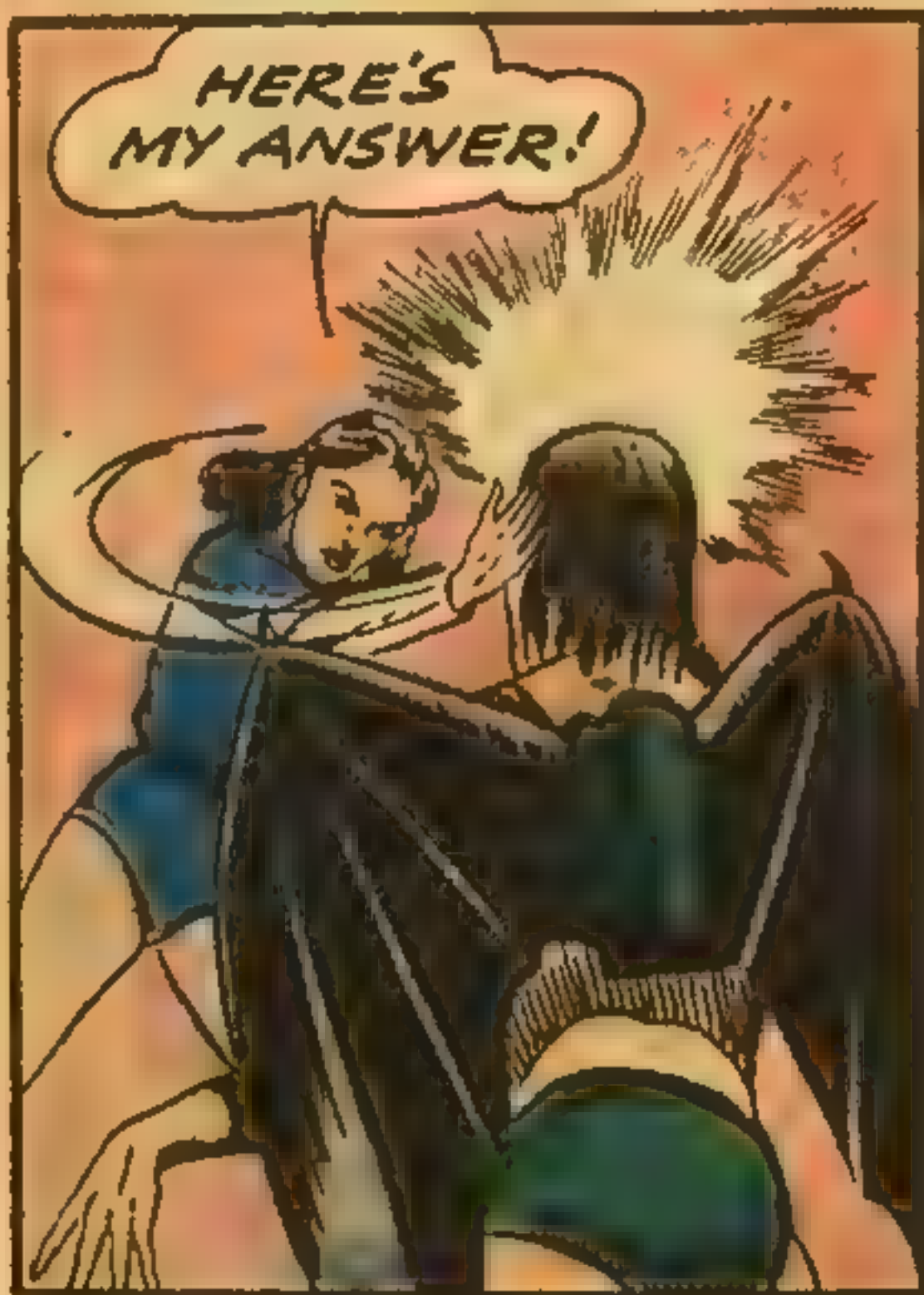


A KRADDAK PATROL LEAPS OUT AND SLAUGHTERS VARA'S MEN IN A BITTER FIGHT.

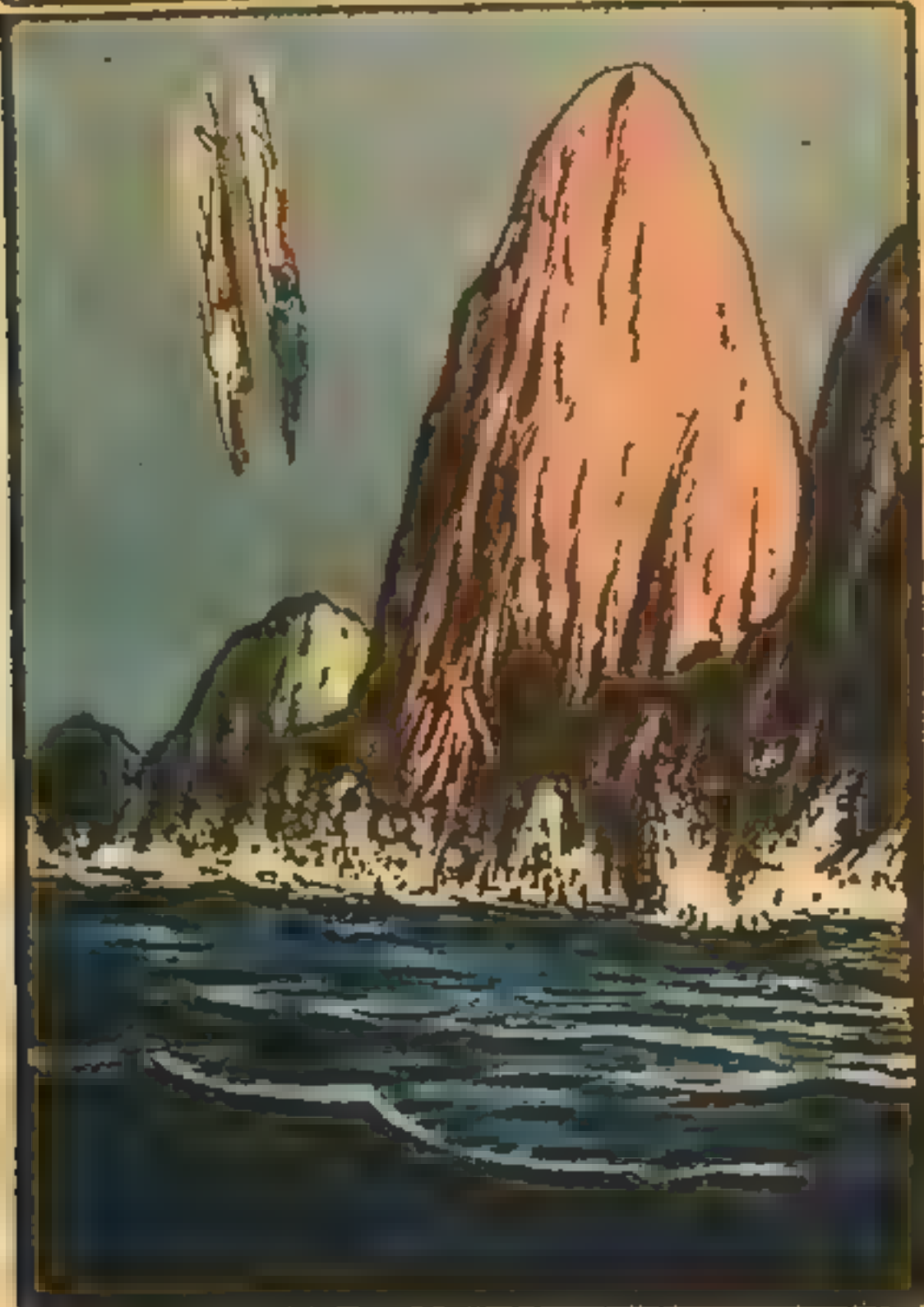


LATER, IN KRAD'S TORTURE CAVE, VARA IS CAST ON THE RACK OF THE PRISM-RAYS OF DEATH!



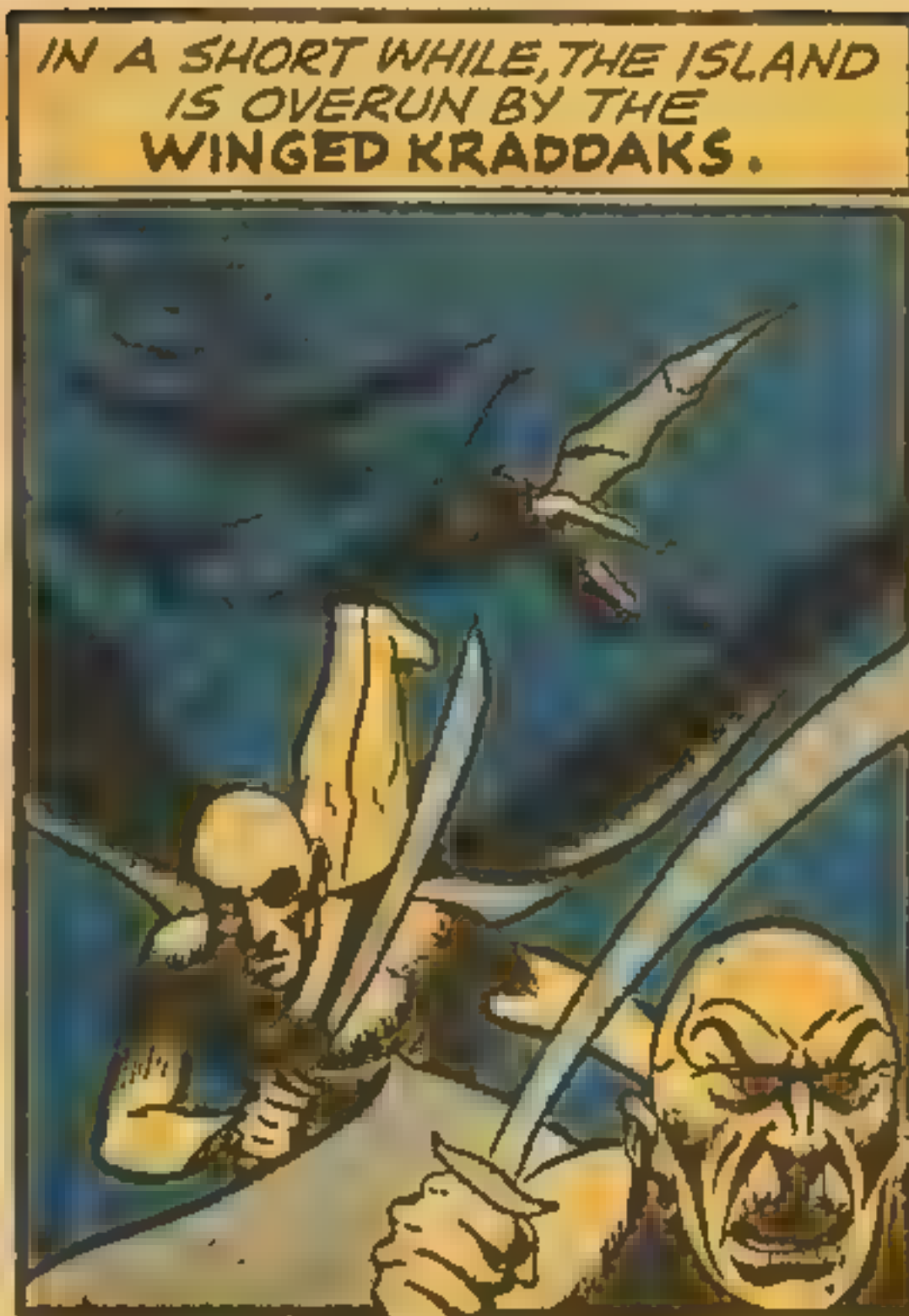
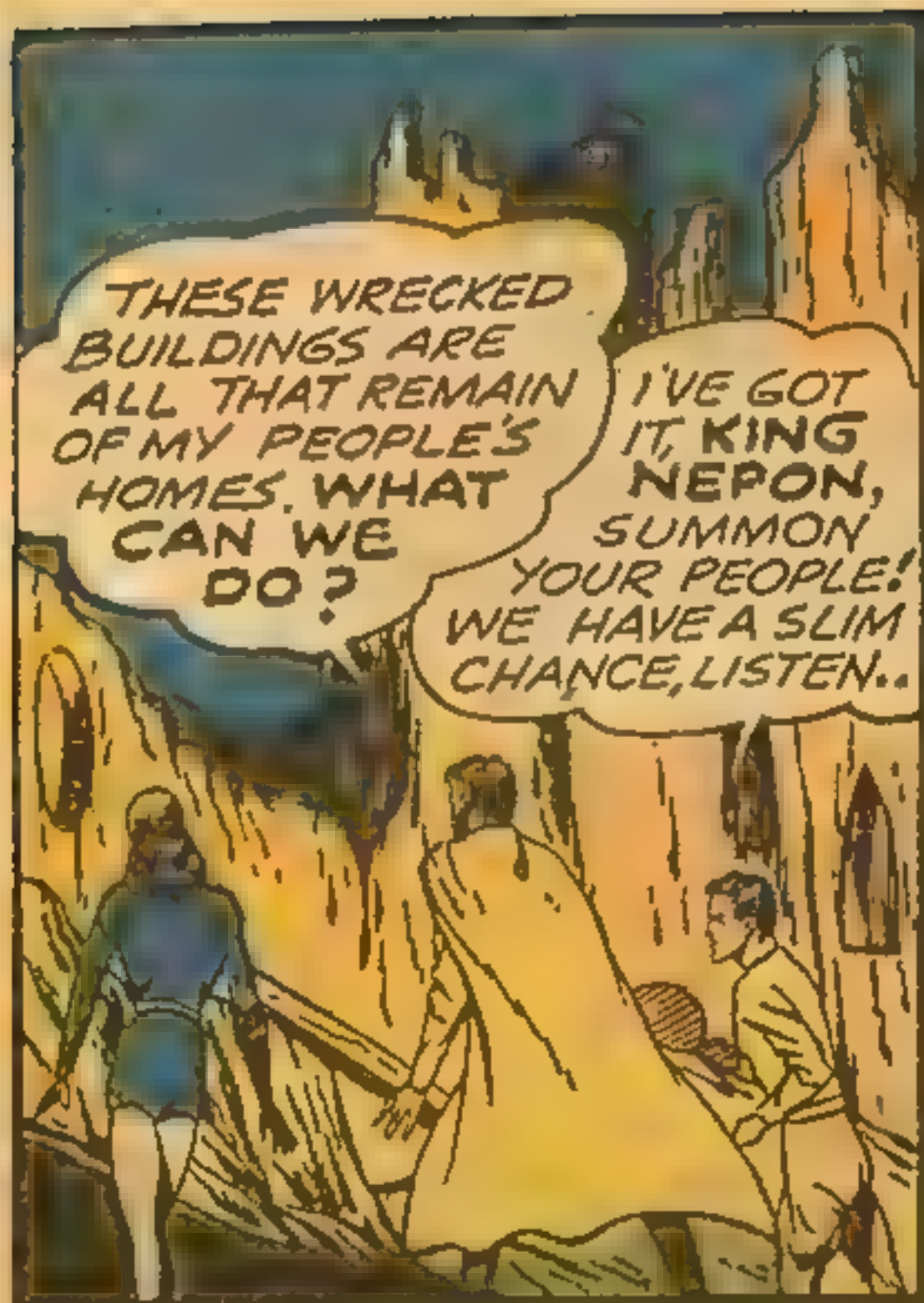


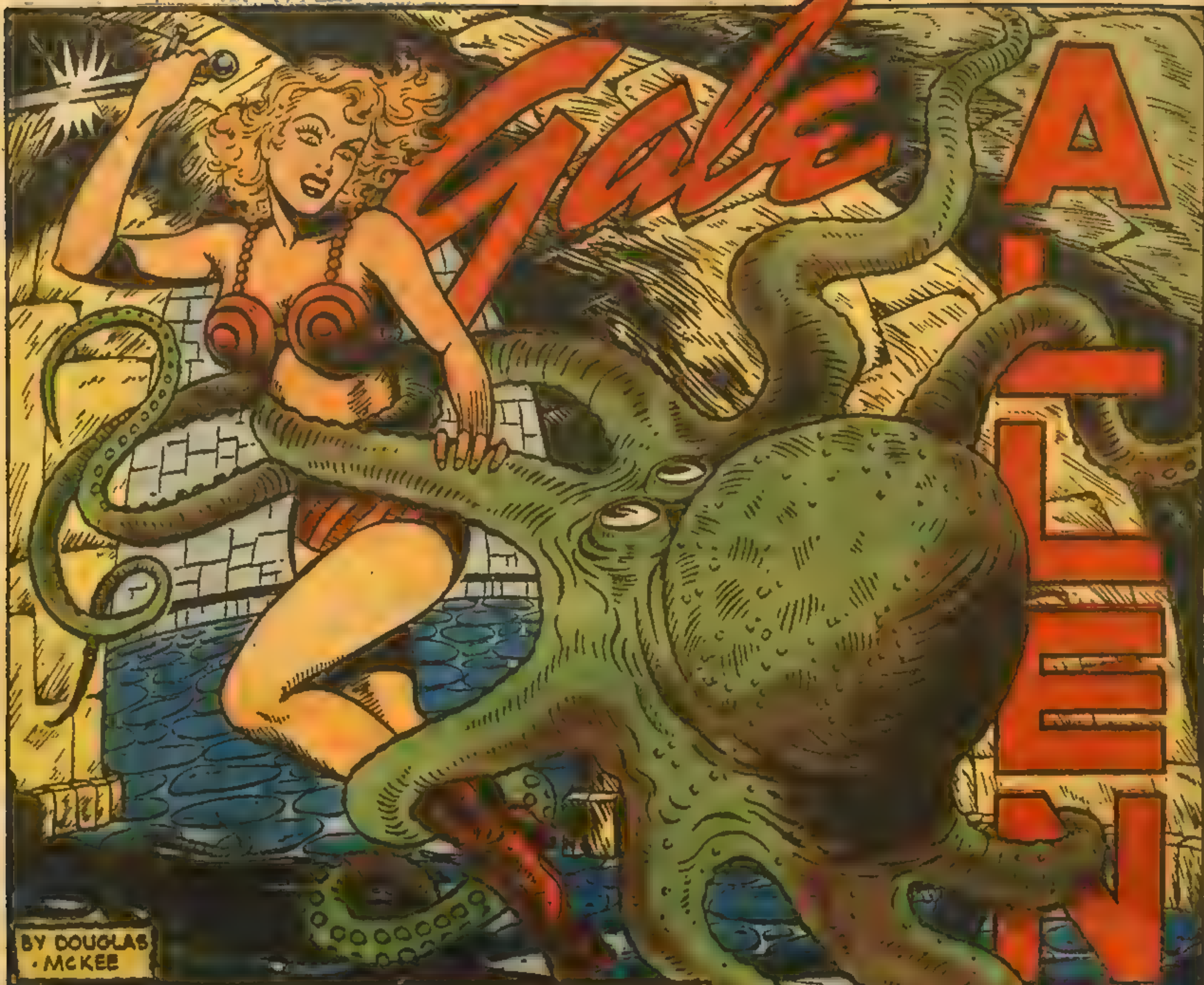
BY SKILLFULLY MANEUVERING HIS BODY, REEF GUIDES HIMSELF AND VARA TOWARD THE WATER AROUND THE ISLAND OF CORAAM.



ON THE BEACH KING NEPON GREET'S REEF RYAN AND VARA.



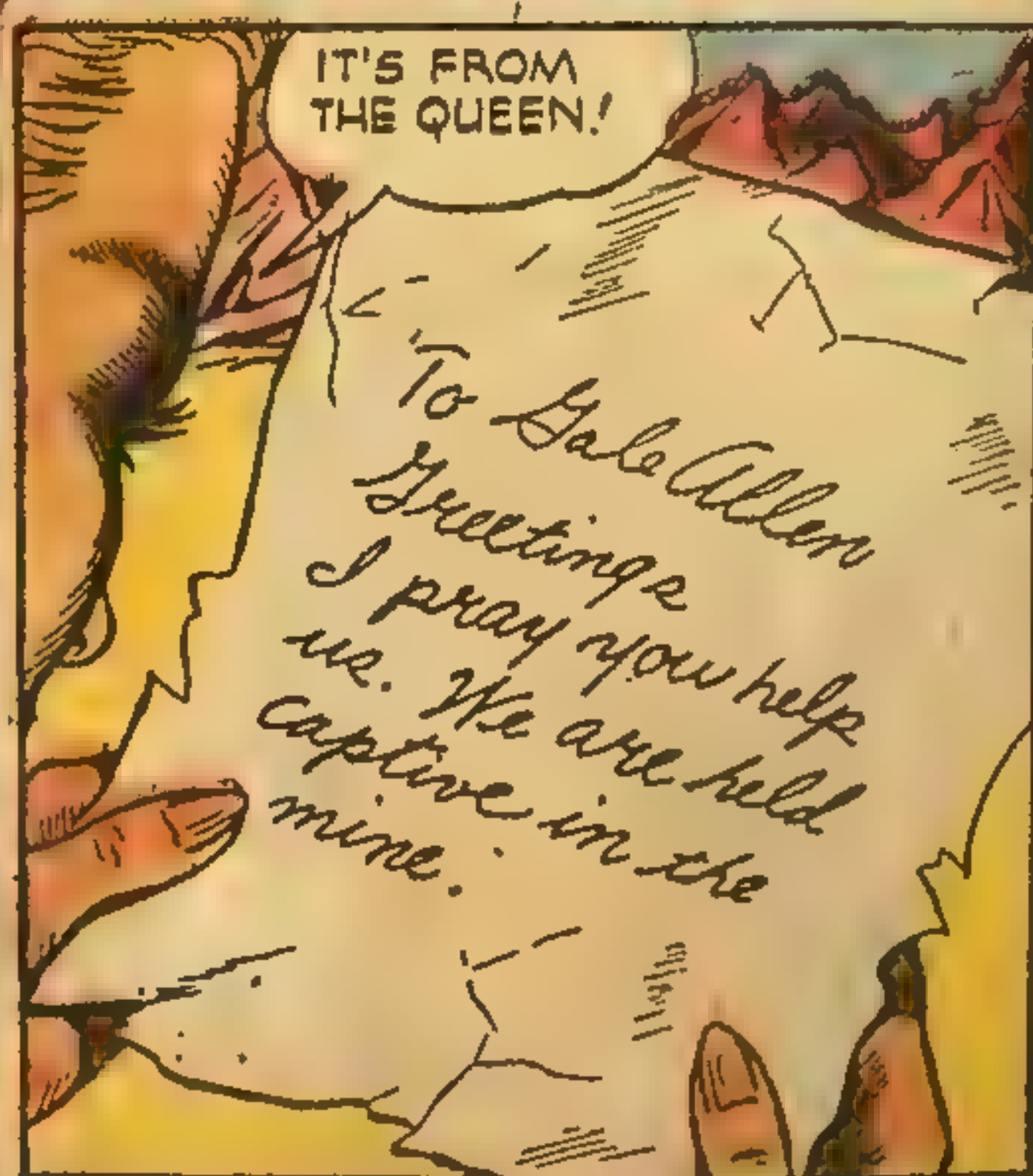
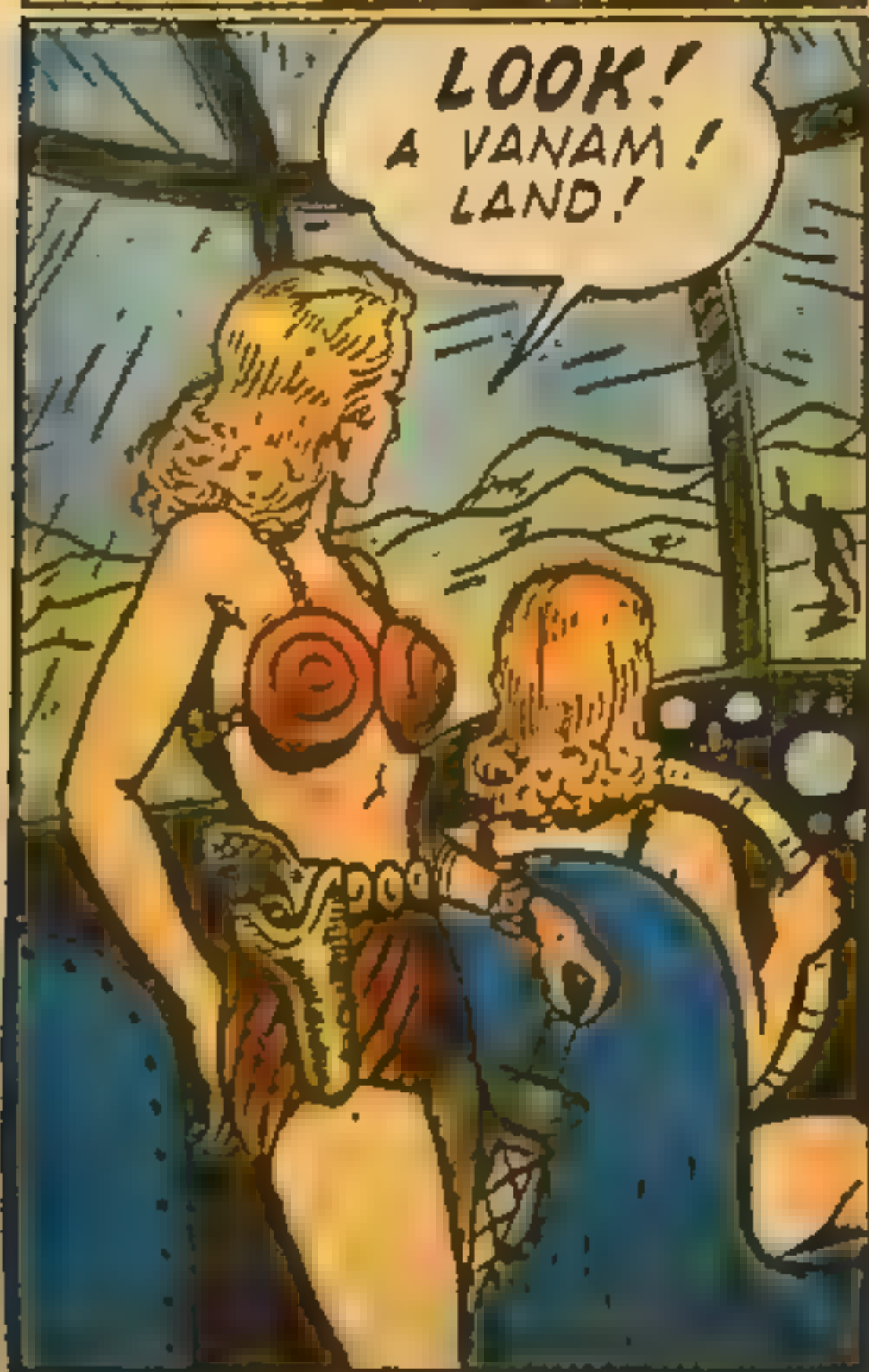




GALE ALLEN'S FLAGSHIP
IS CRUISING OVER THE
MOUNTAINS OF VANAM,
WHEN...

THE MAN IS EXHAUSTED
AS FROM A FEARFUL
EFFORT. FEEBLY HE OF-
FERS GALE A SCROLL

and the GIRL
SQUADRON



THE FEEBLE MESSENGER HAS COLLAPSED, UNCONSCIOUS.

IT MUST MEAN THE SILIUM MINES, GALE!

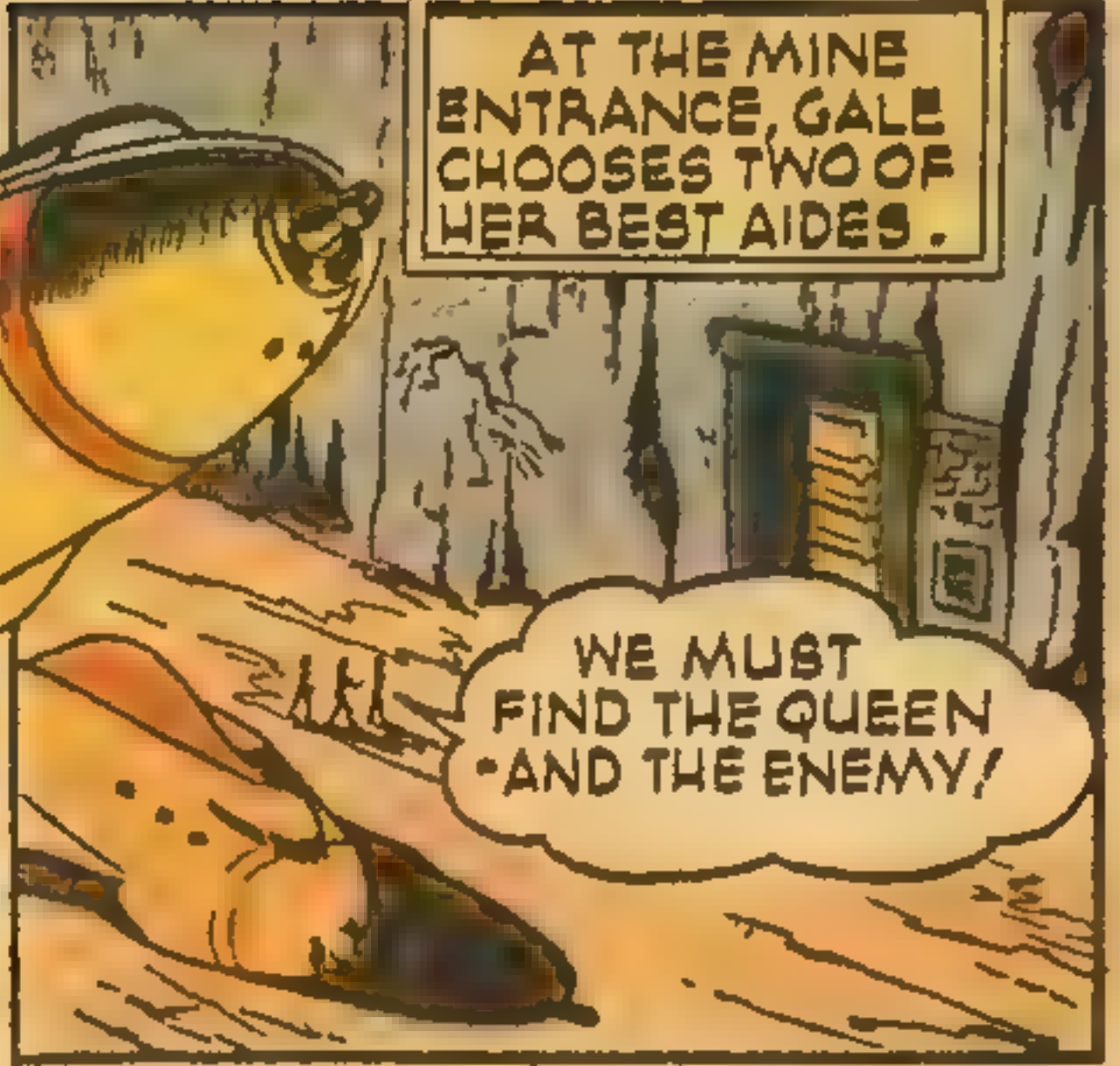
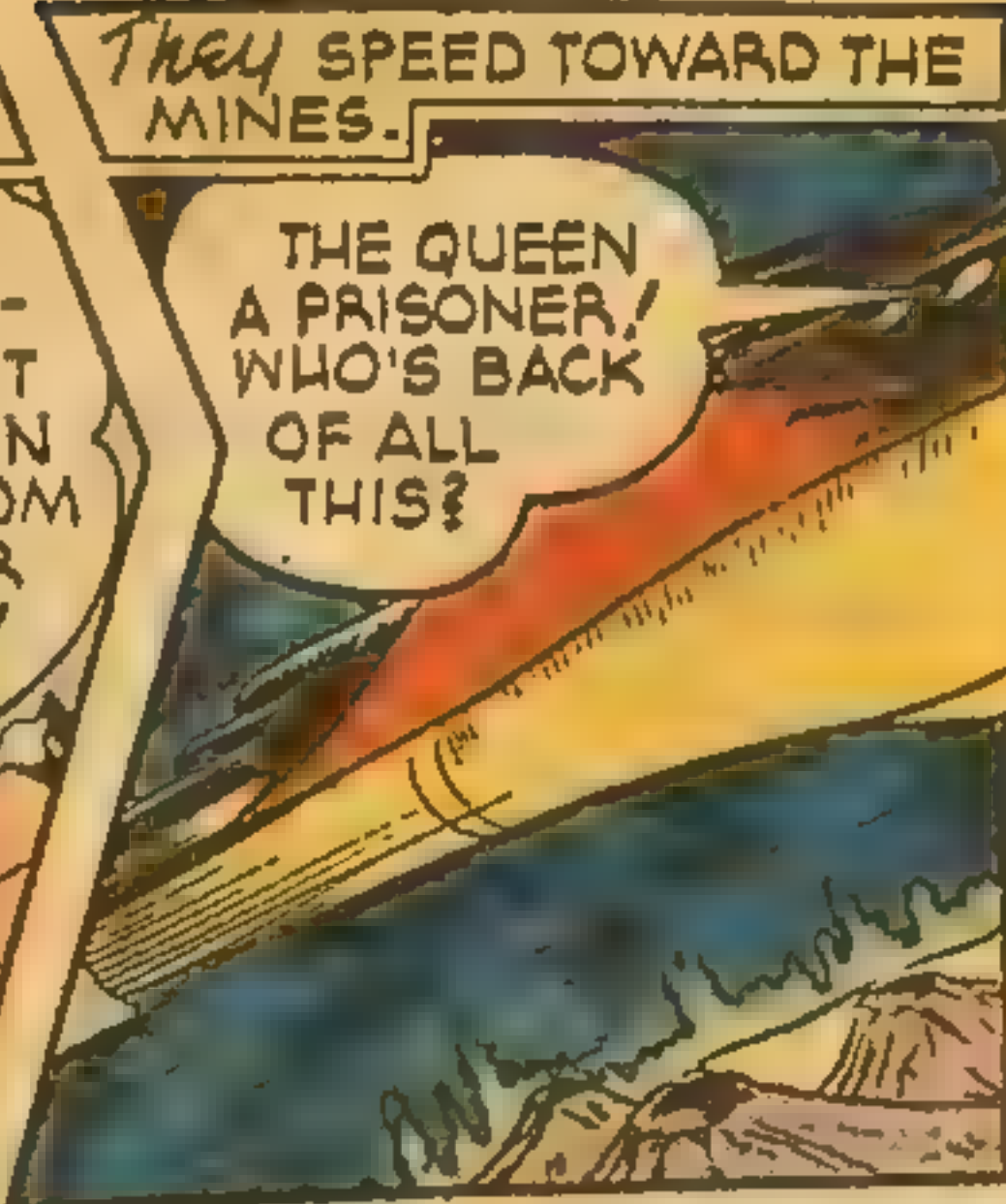
YES, WE MUST GO - CAN'T WAIT TO LEARN MORE FROM THIS POOR FELLOW!

THEY SPEED TOWARD THE MINES.

THE QUEEN A PRISONER! WHO'S BACK OF ALL THIS?

AT THE MINE ENTRANCE, GALE CHOOSES TWO OF HER BEST AIDES.

WE MUST FIND THE QUEEN - AND THE ENEMY!



CAREFUL! THERE MAY BE GUARDS!

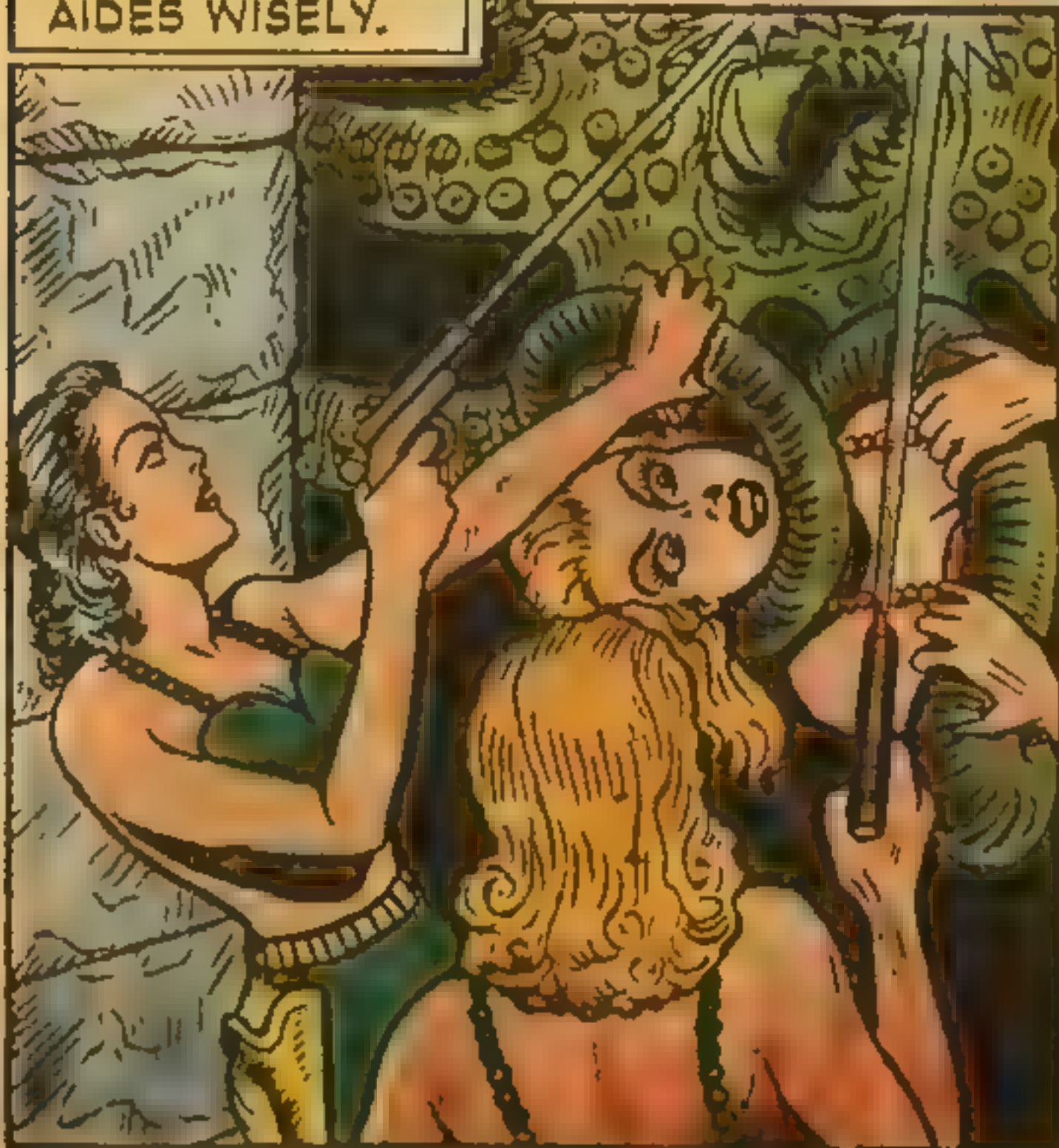
SUDDENLY...



AN OCTOR, REACHING FROM A DANK RECESS, SEIZES GALE.



-BUT GALE HAS CHOSEN HER TWO AIDES WISELY.



SOMEONE LURED THIS OCTOR HERE TO ACT AS SENTRY! WE MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

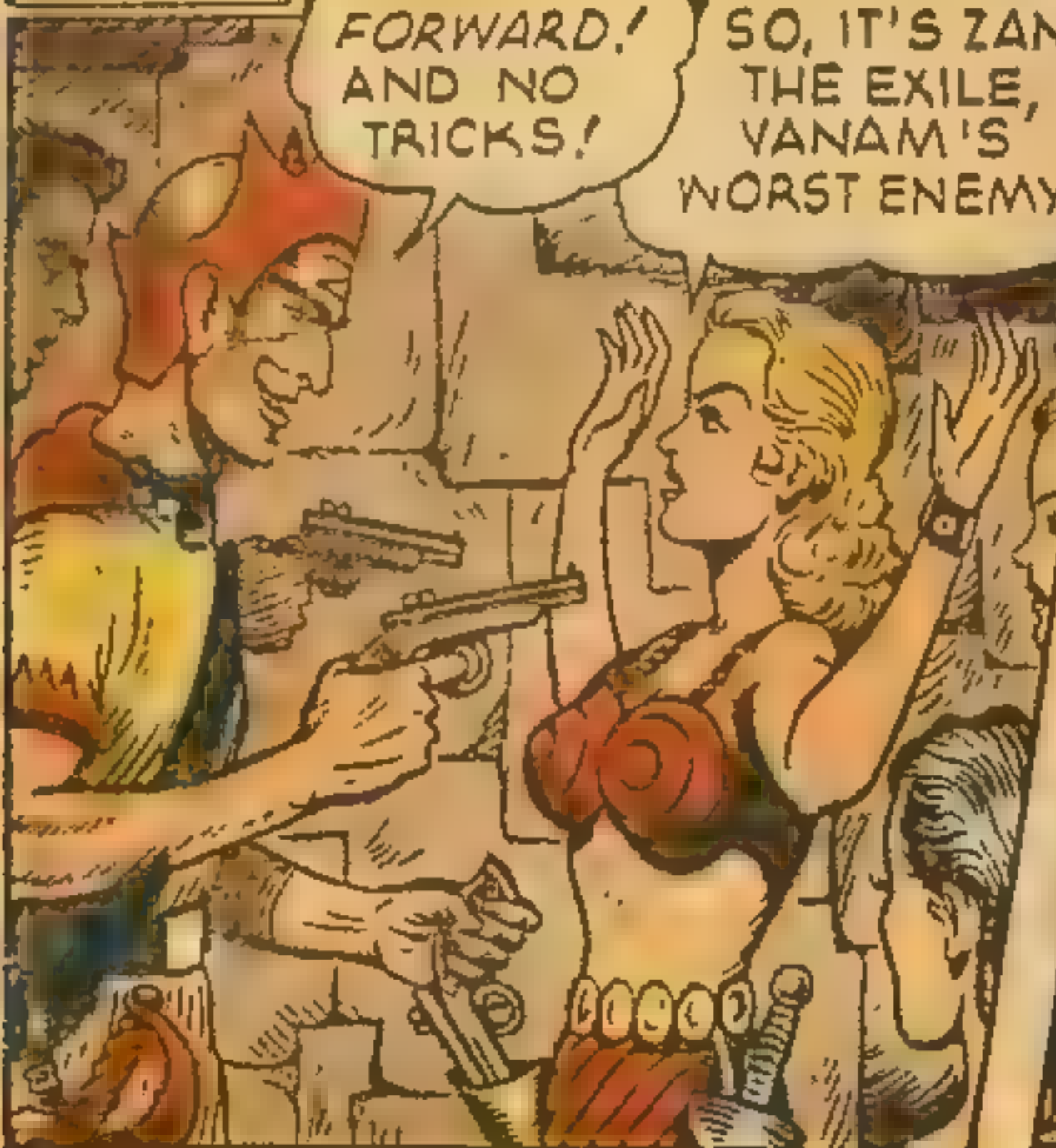


INSTANTLY, THE IDENTITY OF THE ENEMY IS REVEALED. ZANG, THE EXILE!



UP WITH YOUR HANDS!

THE GIRLS SURRENDER. DISARMED, THEY ARE HURRIED DOWN THE TUNNEL.



FORWARD! AND NO TRICKS!

SO, IT'S ZANG, THE EXILE, VANAM'S WORST ENEMY!

IN A GREAT CAVERN THE QUEEN AND HER COUNCILORS STAND IN CHAINS!



SO, YOU TOO, ARE IN ZANG'S TOILS, GALE ALLEN.

YES, O QUEEN, BUT DONOT DESPAIR.

ZANG HAS SEIZED THE MINES? WHERE IS JACK-HE WAS INSPECTING THE ORE VEIN!



YOUR FRIEND JACK IS IN THE SHAFT, A SLAVE OF ZANG. GALE, YOU MUST SAVE MY PEOPLE!

SO-O-O, YOUR MAJESTY! YOU CANNOT HOPE TO BE RESCUED, AND I, WITH THE MINES, CAN RULE VANAM! SIGN A DECREE GIVING ME THE MINES - OR MUST I KILL THE GUARDS?



NO! - DON'T SIGN! HE COULD TERRORIZE ALL VENUS! TEMPORIZE - GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME!



I MUST CONSIDER THE PROBLEM!

GOOD! BUT MAKE HASTE. IN TWO SUNS YOU MUST SIGN OR DIE!



CONSENT YOUR MAJESTY!

SILENCE! ZANG CANNOT BE TRUSTED! A WAY OUT MAY BE FOUND!

YES, SIGN!



AS THE PRISONERS ARE LED TO THEIR CELLS, A COUNCILOR WHISPERS TO THE COURT PHYSICIAN.

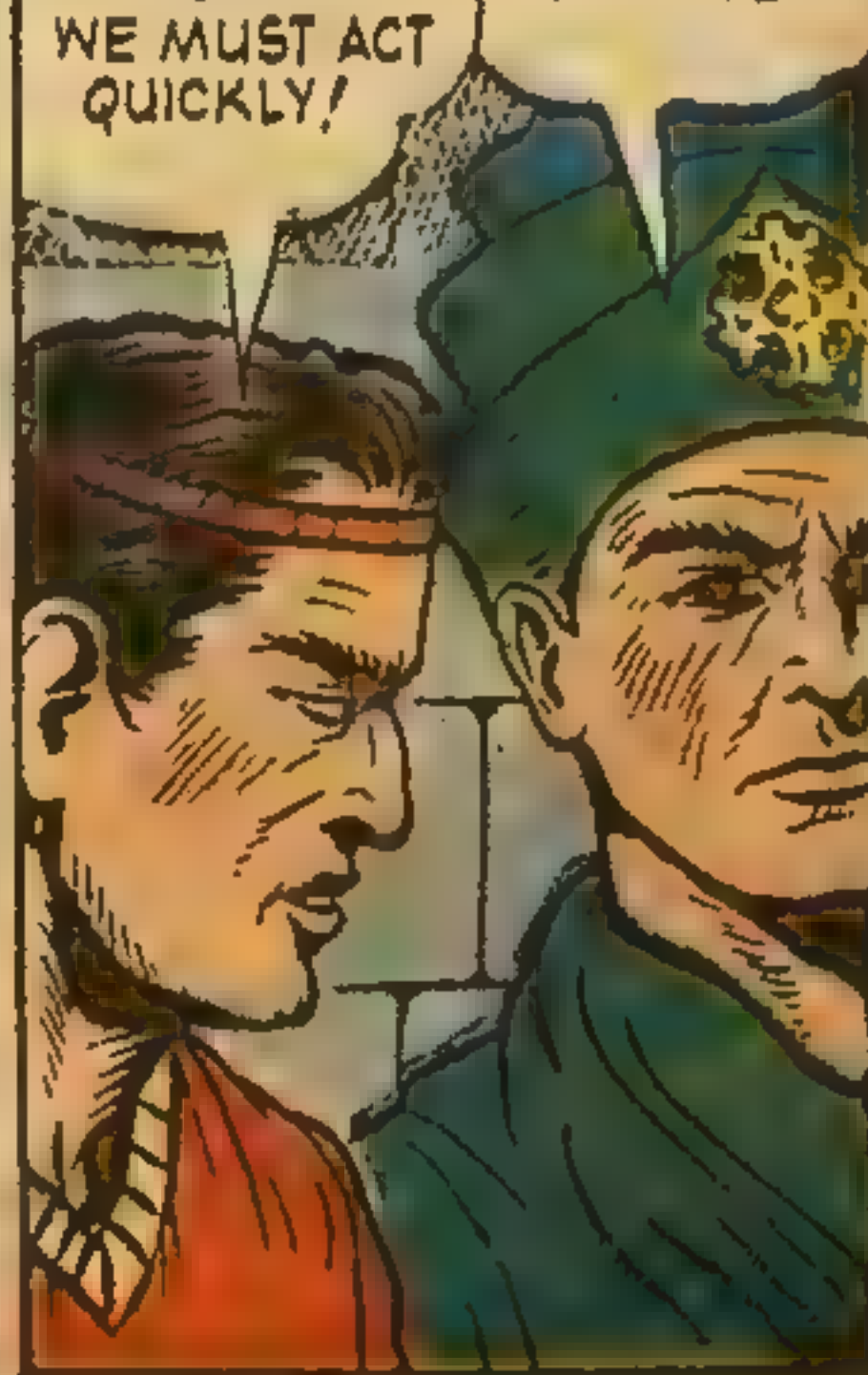


YOU MUST HYPNOTIZE HER - DRUG HER - MAKE HER SIGN, OR WE ARE ALL DOOMED!

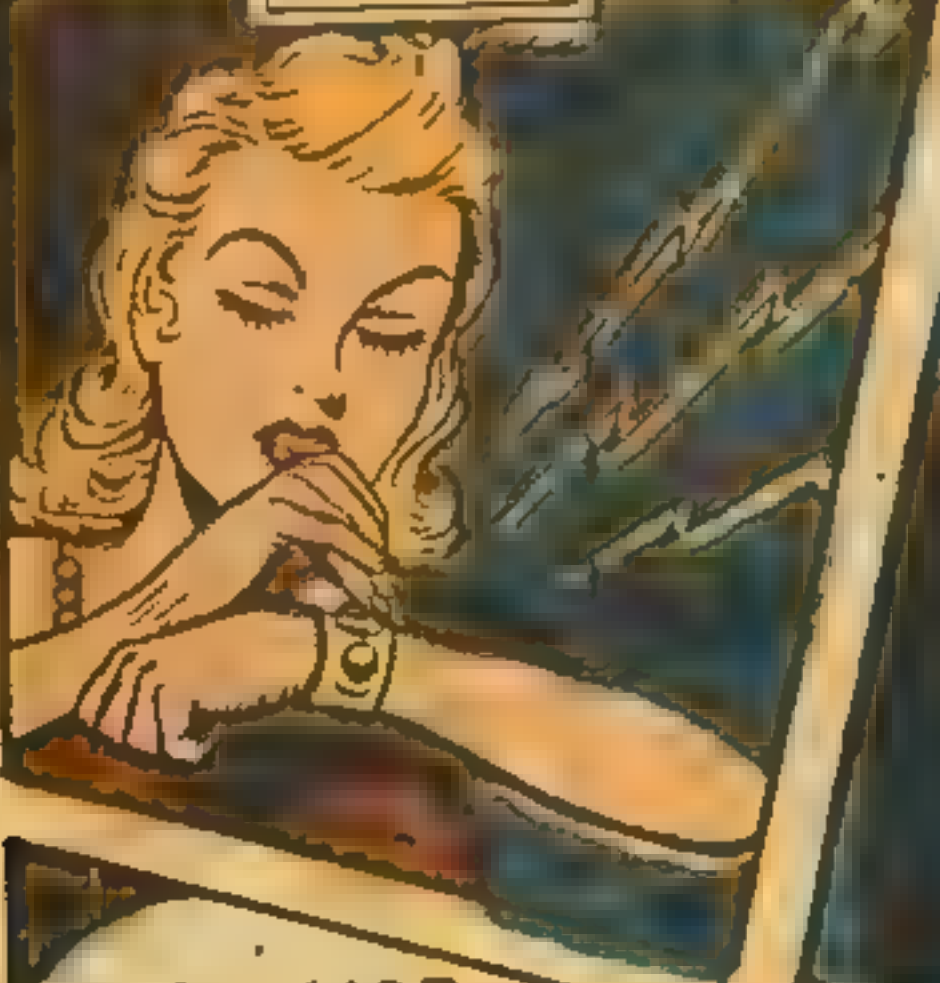
BUT - HOW CAN ZANG BE BEATEN IF HE KEEPS THE MINES?

ONCE FREE, WE CAN TRICK ZANG. BUT WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!

VERY WELL. I WILL GO AT ONCE!

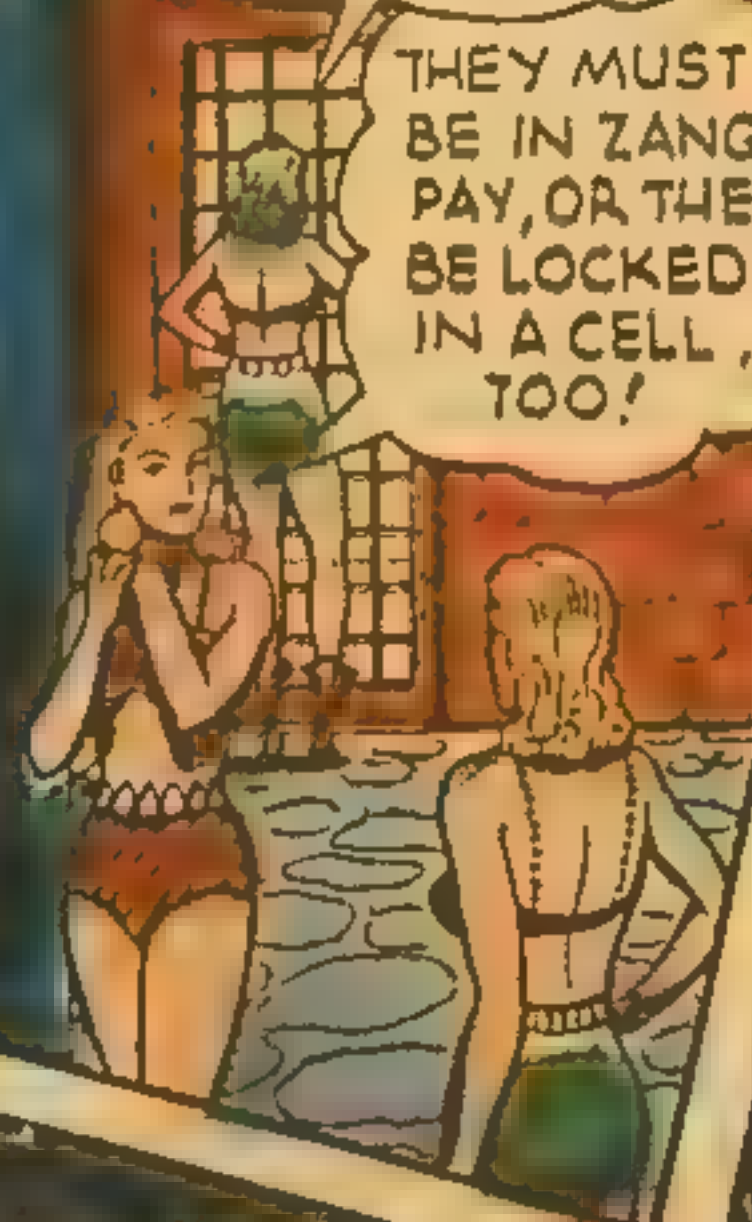


GALE TRIES TO RADIO JACK BUT THE TUNNEL'S ELECTRIC CURRENTS JAM HER WRIST SENDER.



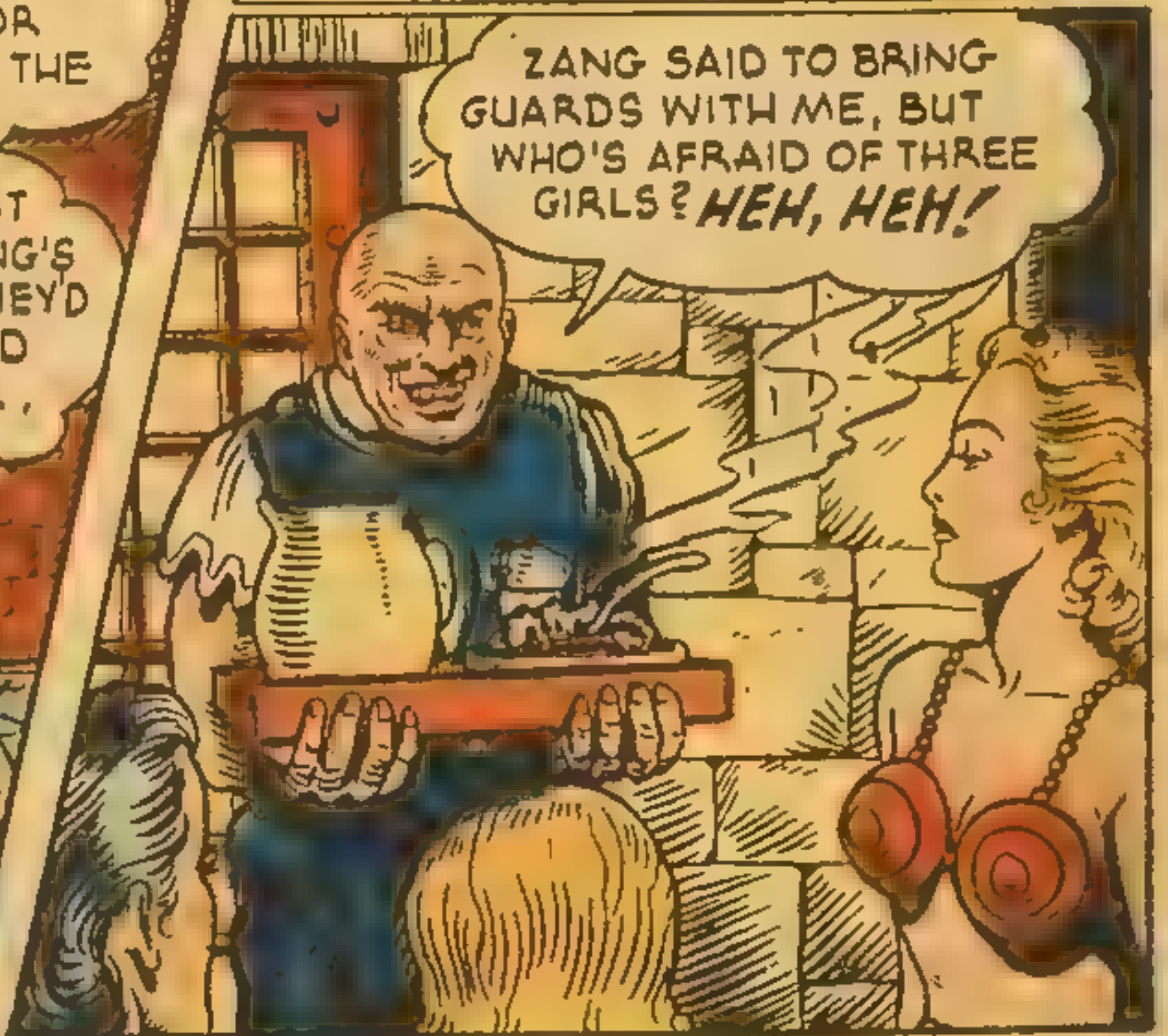
GALE! THE DOCTOR AND A COUNCILOR JUST PASSED IN THE CORRIDOR!

THEY MUST BE IN ZANG'S PAY, OR THEY'D BE LOCKED IN A CELL, TOO!



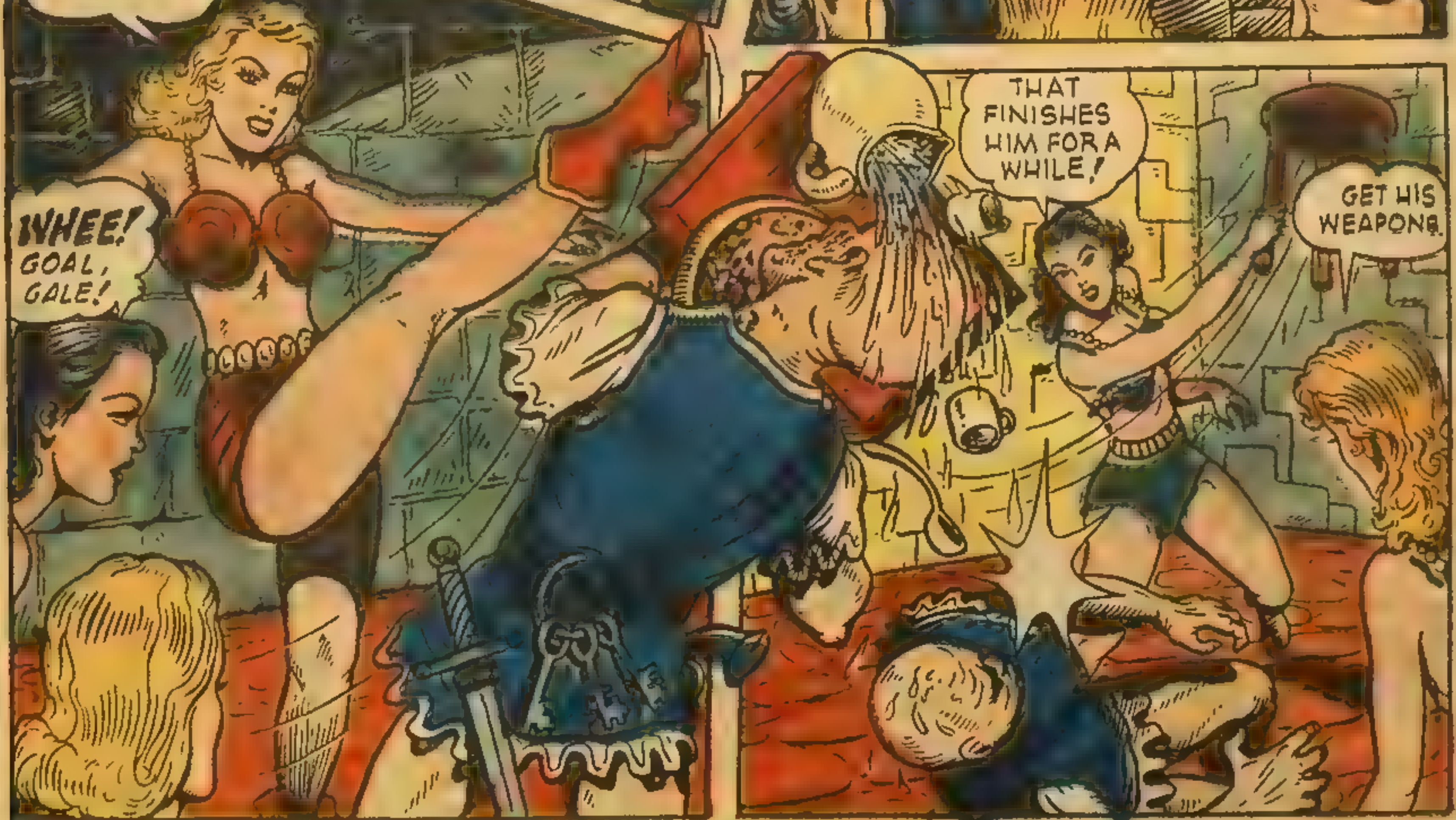
LATER, A GUARD COMES WITH FOOD.

ZANG SAID TO BRING GUARDS WITH ME, BUT WHO'S AFRAID OF THREE GIRLS? HEH, HEH!



YOU MADE A MISTAKE THIS TIME!

WHEE! GOAL, GALE!



THAT FINISHES HIM FOR A WHILE!

GET HIS WEAPONS.

ARMED WITH THE GUARD'S WEAPONS...

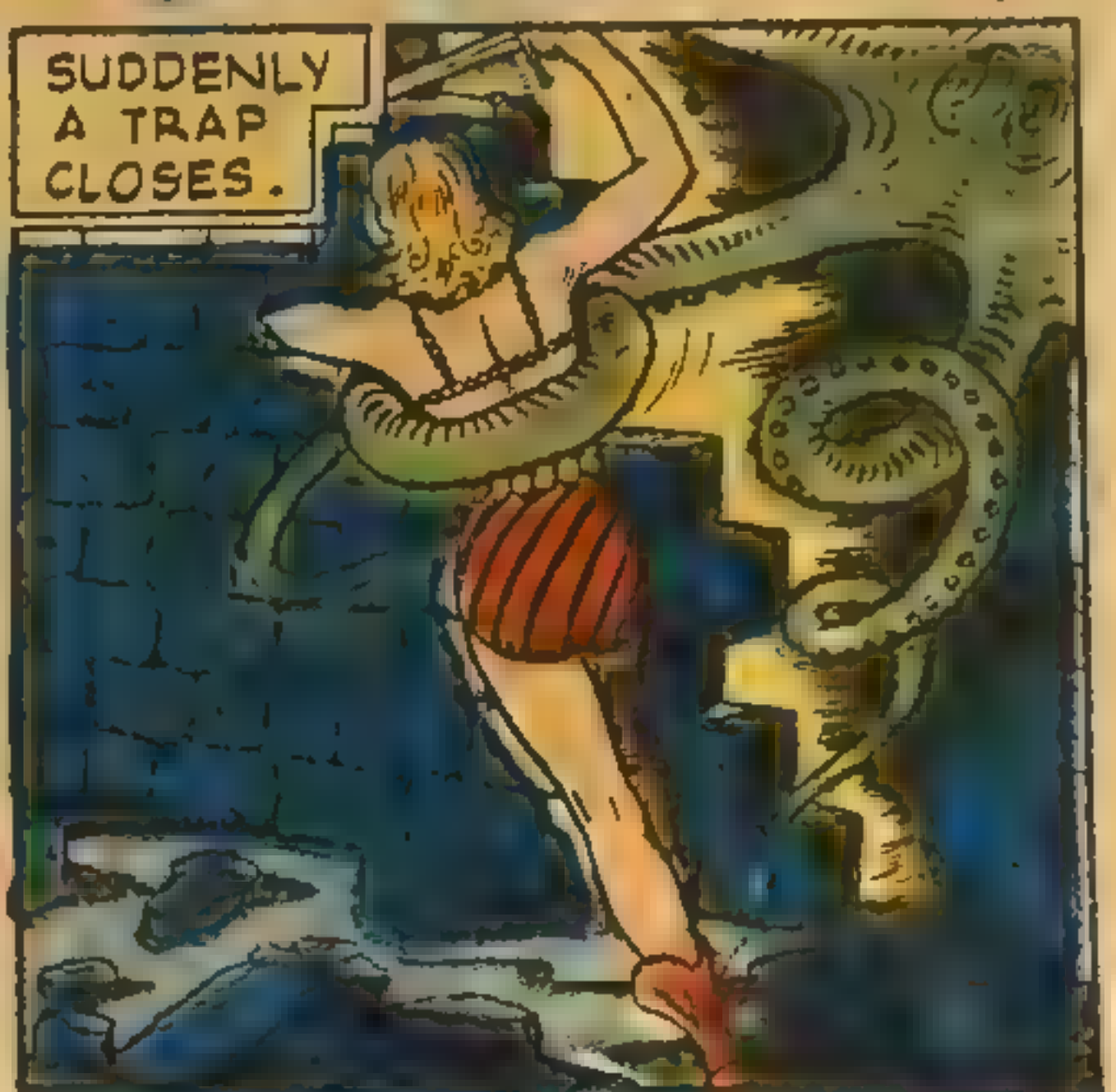
YOU TWO GO THAT WAY, I'LL GO THE OTHER! WE MUST FIND JACK!



GALE WANDERS THROUGH THE DARK CORRIDORS SEEKING THE MINE CREW!



SUDDENLY A TRAP CLOSES.



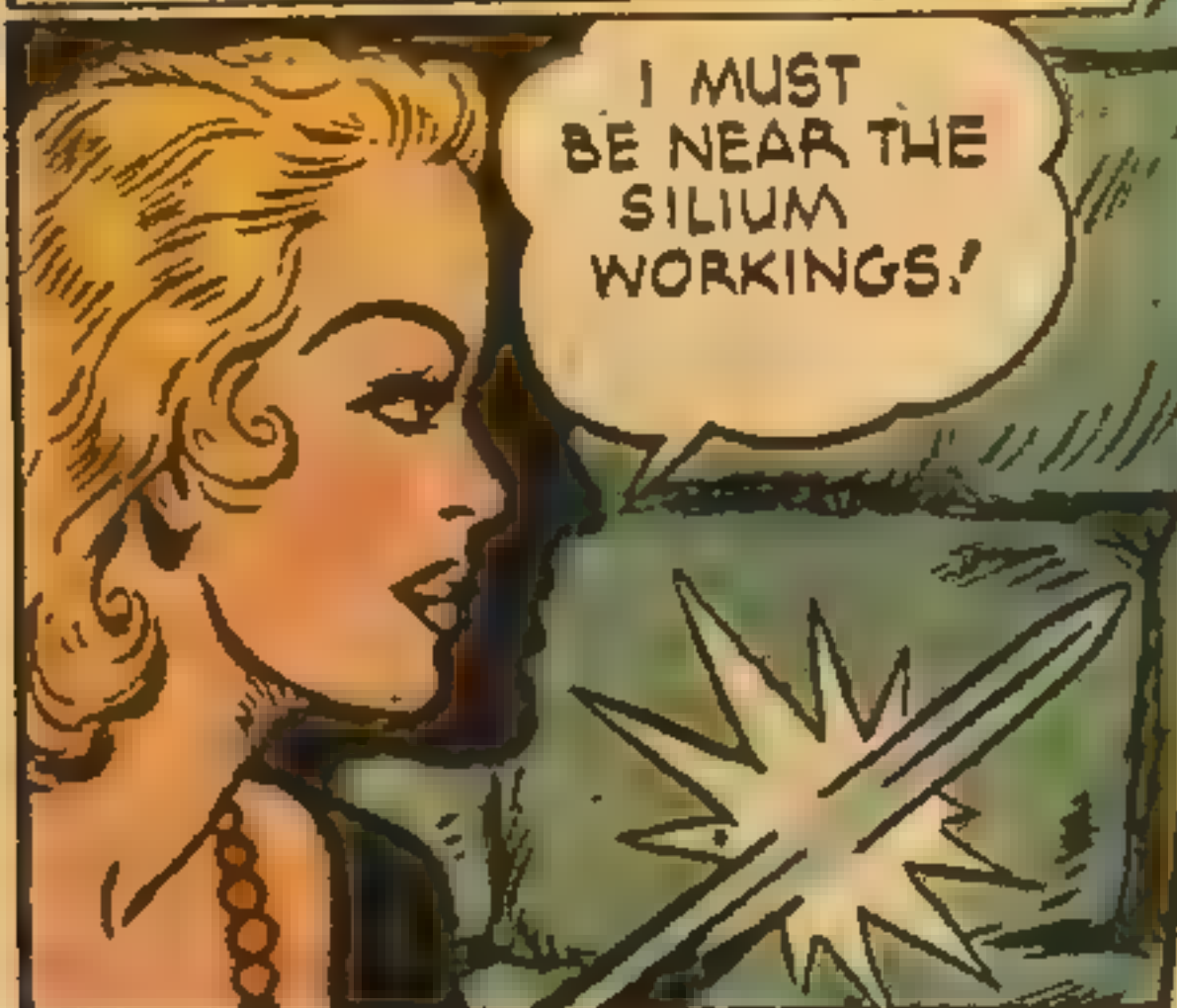
A TENTACLE CLUTCHES GALE'S WAIST!

BUT SHE CUTS HERSELF FREE WITH A TERRIFIC SLASH!

AND RUNS INTO A TUNNEL TOO NARROW FOR THE MONSTER TO FOLLOW HER INTO.



SHE HEARS CLINKING SOUNDS!

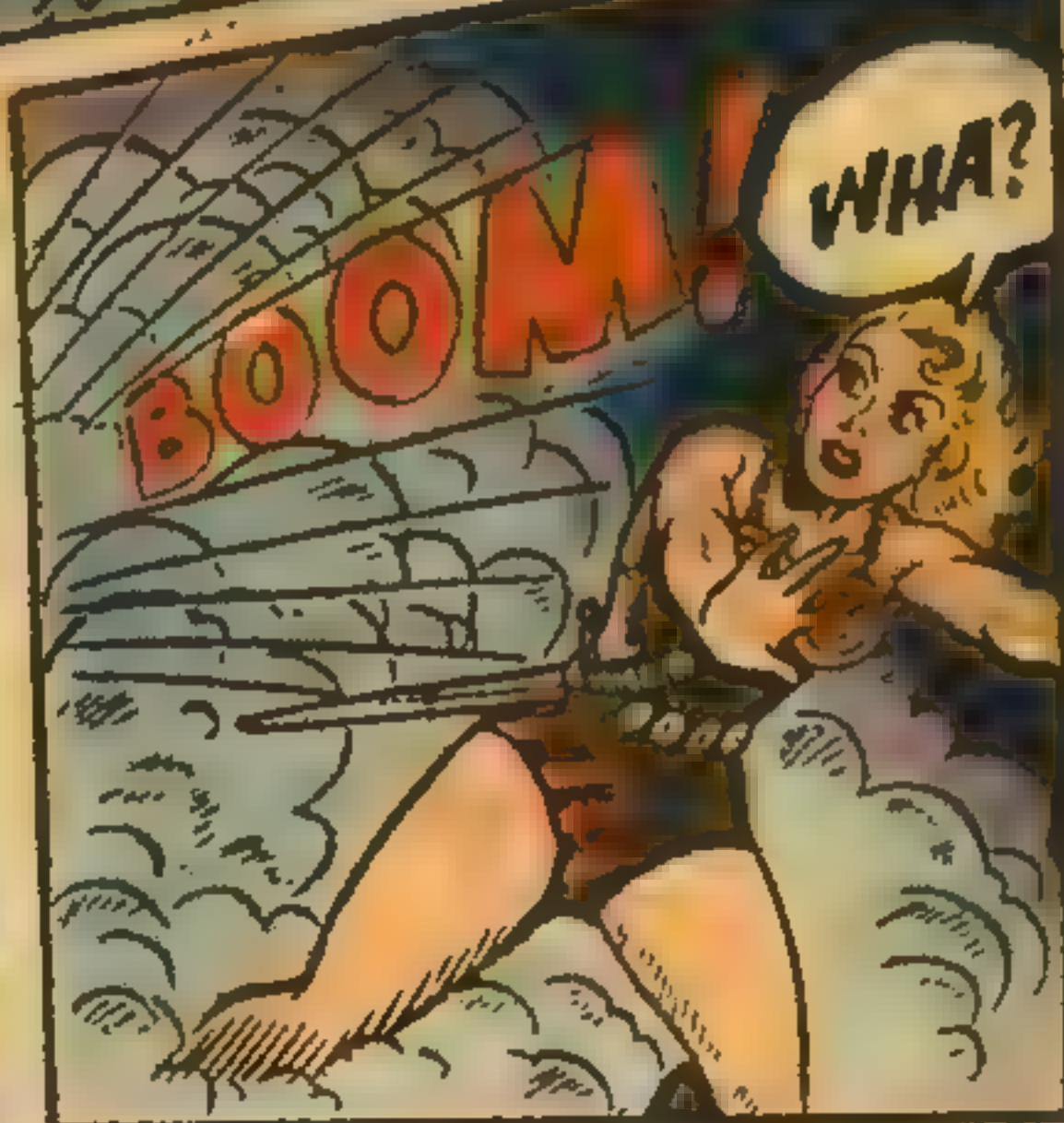


I MUST BE NEAR THE SILIUM WORKINGS!

QUICKLY, SHE TRIES HER WRIST RADIO!



JACK'S VOICE!



WHA?

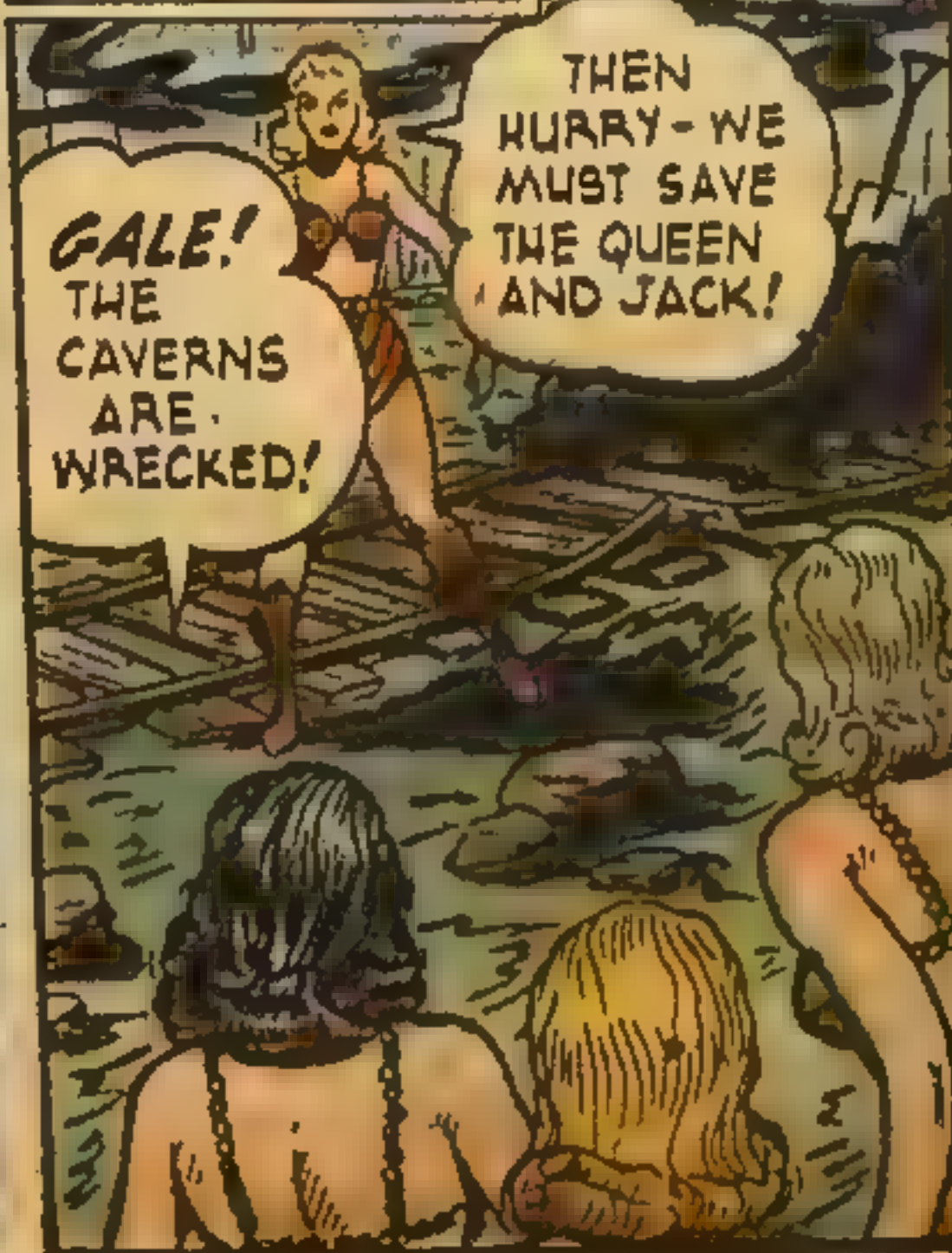
RECOVERING, SHE RUSHES TOWARD THE SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION!

SHE REACHES THE MINE, BUT NO ONE IS IN SIGHT -



JACK! WHERE ARE YOU?

THE GIRL SQUADRON ARRIVES ON THE SCENE -



GALE! THE CAVERNS ARE WRECKED!

THEN HURRY - WE MUST SAVE THE QUEEN AND JACK!

GALE AND THE GIRL SQUADRON HEAR SOUNDS OF BATTLE AND RUSH TOWARD THEM...



THEY FIND JACK AND HIS MEN FIGHTING THOUGH HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED...



COME ON, MEN! LET'S GET THIS ZANG GANG!

INTO THEM, BUT DON'T SHOOT, GIRLS, IT'S DANGEROUS! USE SWORDS!



GALE AND THE GIRL SQUADRON CHARGE INTO THE MELEE...



And SOON THE LAST OF ZANG'S HENCHMEN FALLS...



COME! WE MUST FIND THE QUEEN!

NICE WORK, GALE. OKAY, LET'S GO!



SUDDENLY, ZANG STEPS FROM A HIDING PLACE IN A CLEFT...

THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER OR YOUR QUEEN DIES!



BUT DOOM HAS BEEN CREEPING FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE CLEFT AND SUDDENLY A TENTACLE SHOOTS DOWN AND GRABS HIM!



AAA!

THAT FIXES HIM! NOW LET'S FREE THE OTHERS AND GET OUT OF HERE!



GALE ALLEN AND HER GIRL SQUADRON WILL APPEAR IN MORE THRILLING ADVENTURE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

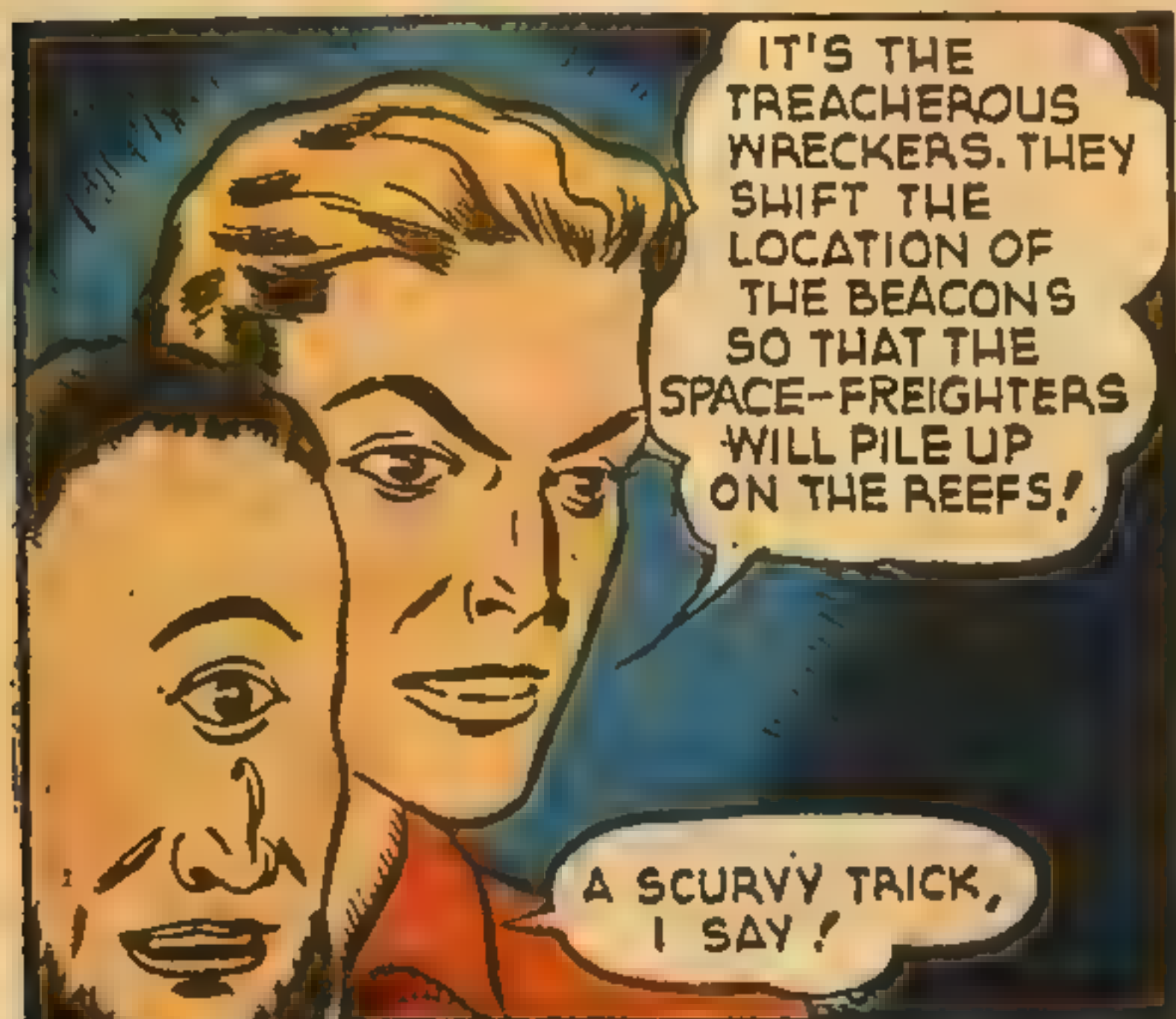
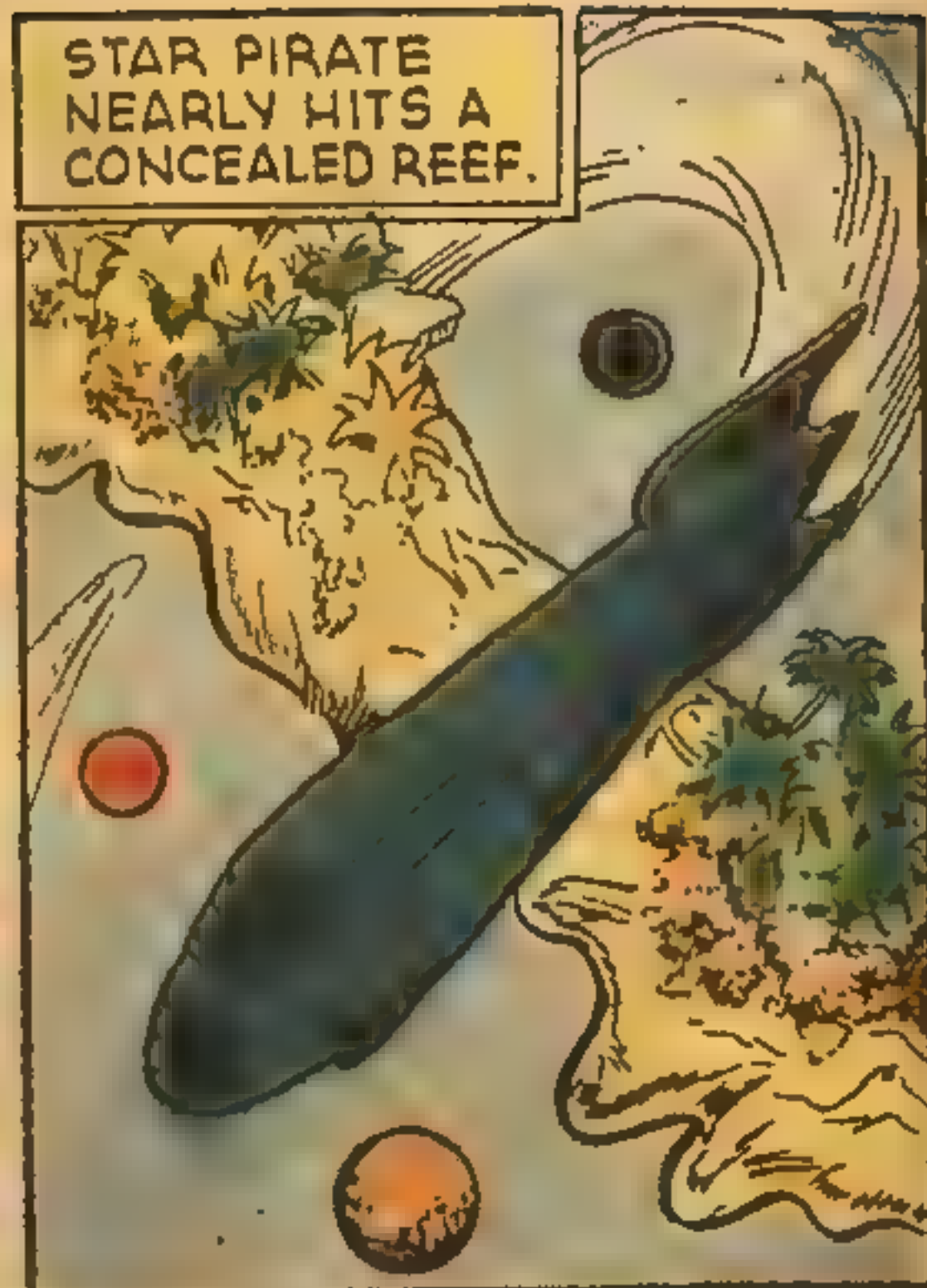
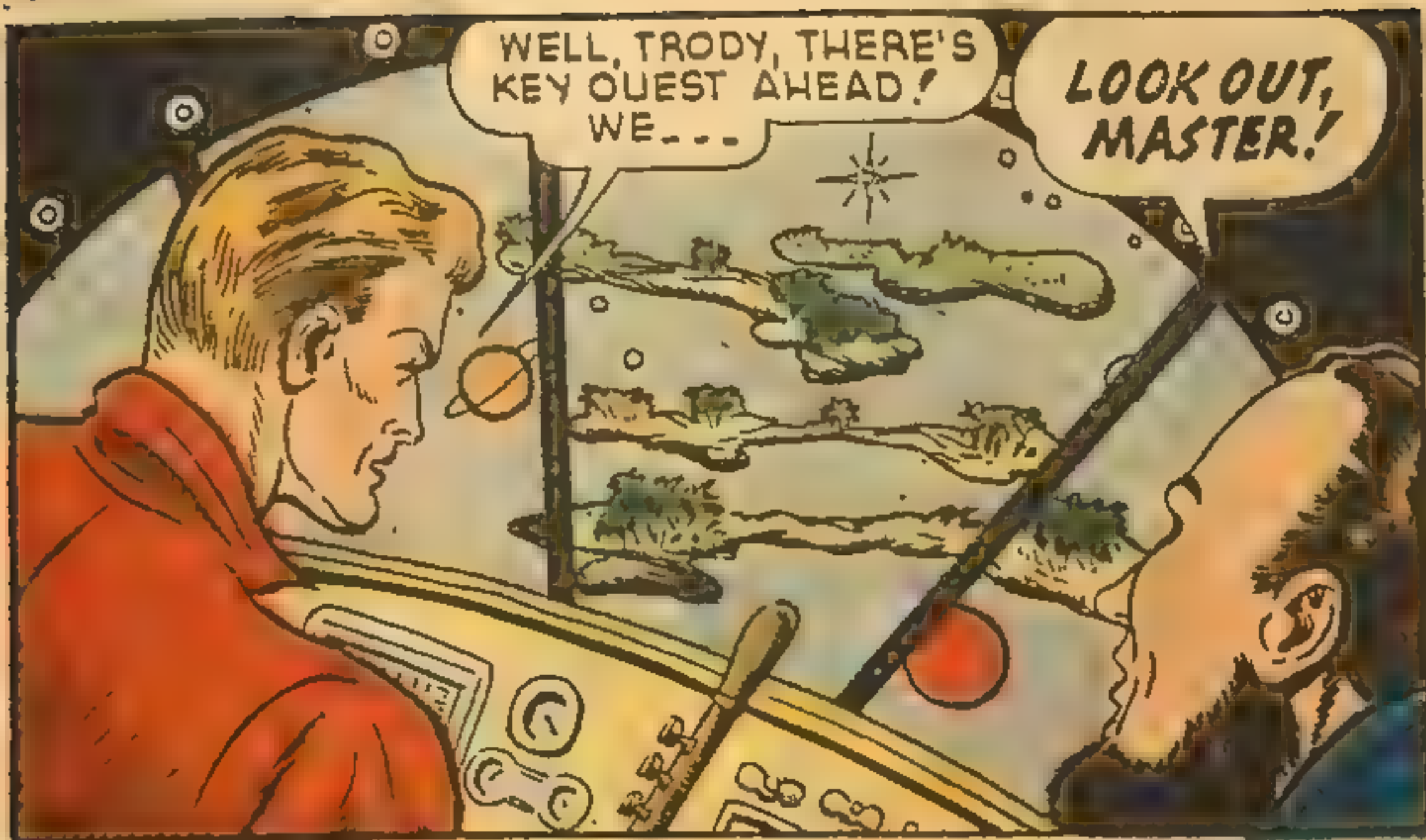
INTRA SPACE COMBAT ROCKET

HERE IS AN IMAGINATIVE DESIGN THAT MAY SOME DAY RESEMBLE A FIGHTING CRAFT OF THE FUTURE WHICH WILL DEFEND AMERICA'S SPACE POSSESSIONS AND ALL FREE PEOPLES OF OUR LIMITLESS UNIVERSE.

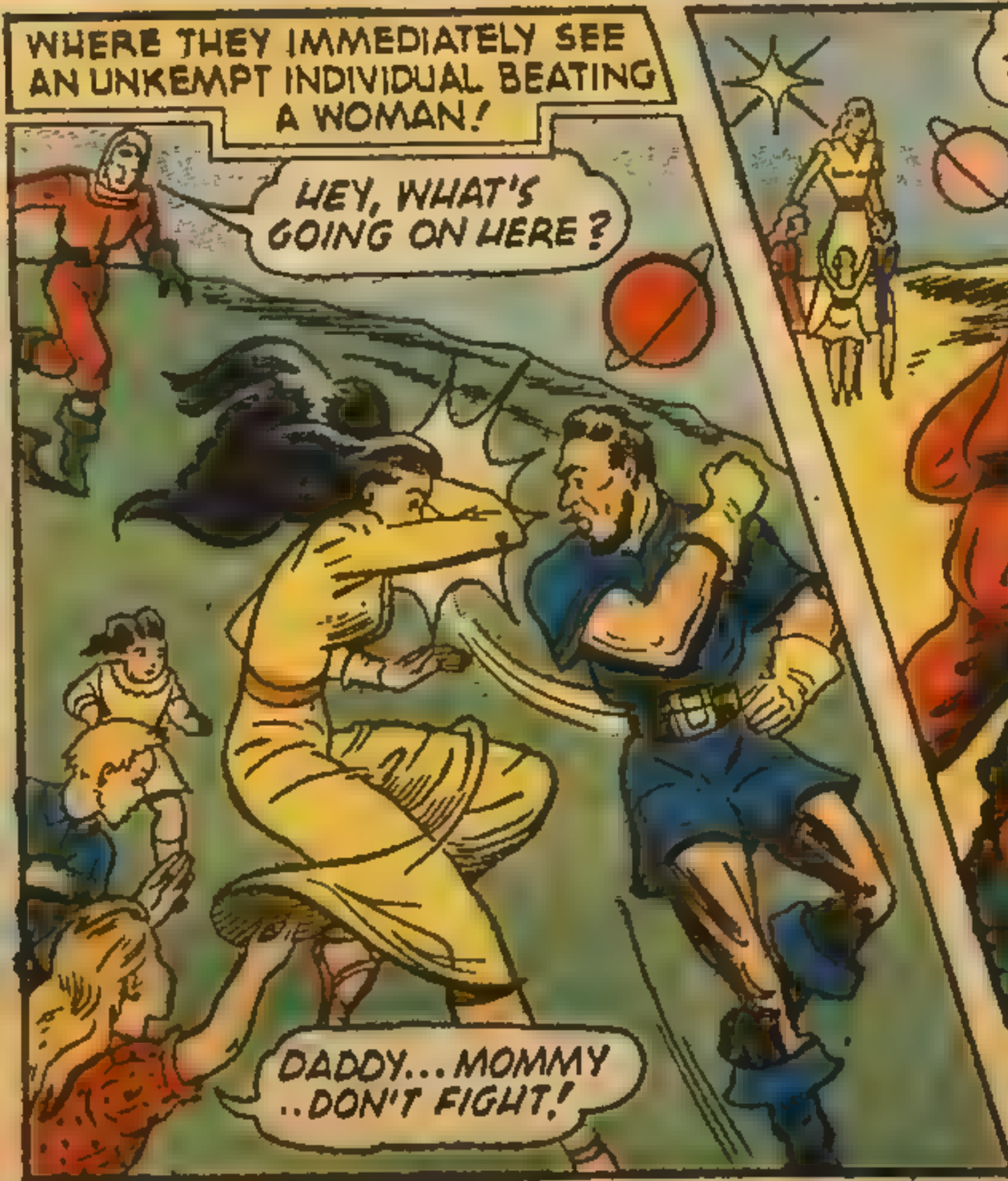
MILITARY OPERATIONS IN OUTER SPACE WHERE THERE IS NO SOUND, LIGHT, NOR HEAT, WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. DUE TO THE COMPLETE DARKNESS OF INTER-STELLAR SPACE, A TYPE OF ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO-DETECTOR WOULD SERVE TO LOCATE THE ENEMY. GIANT ROCKET-POWERED TORPEDOES WOULD THEN BE LAUNCHED FROM ELECTRO-RIFLED TUBES IN THE BOW. THESE DEADLY WHIRLING CAPSULES, GUIDED BY RADIO TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE, WOULD GRIND THEIR WAY THROUGH THE HULL AND EXPLODE WITHIN THE ENEMY CRAFT.

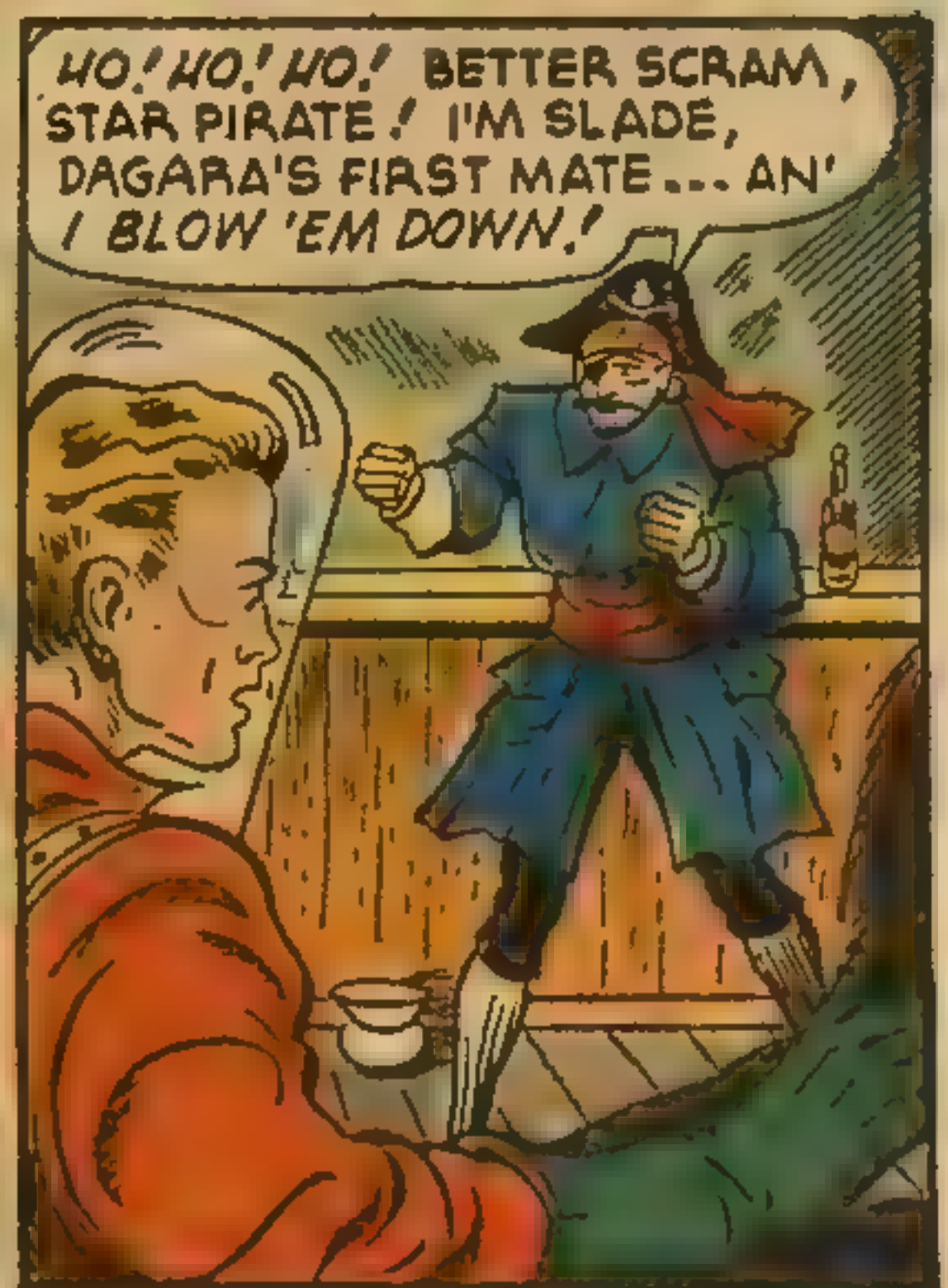
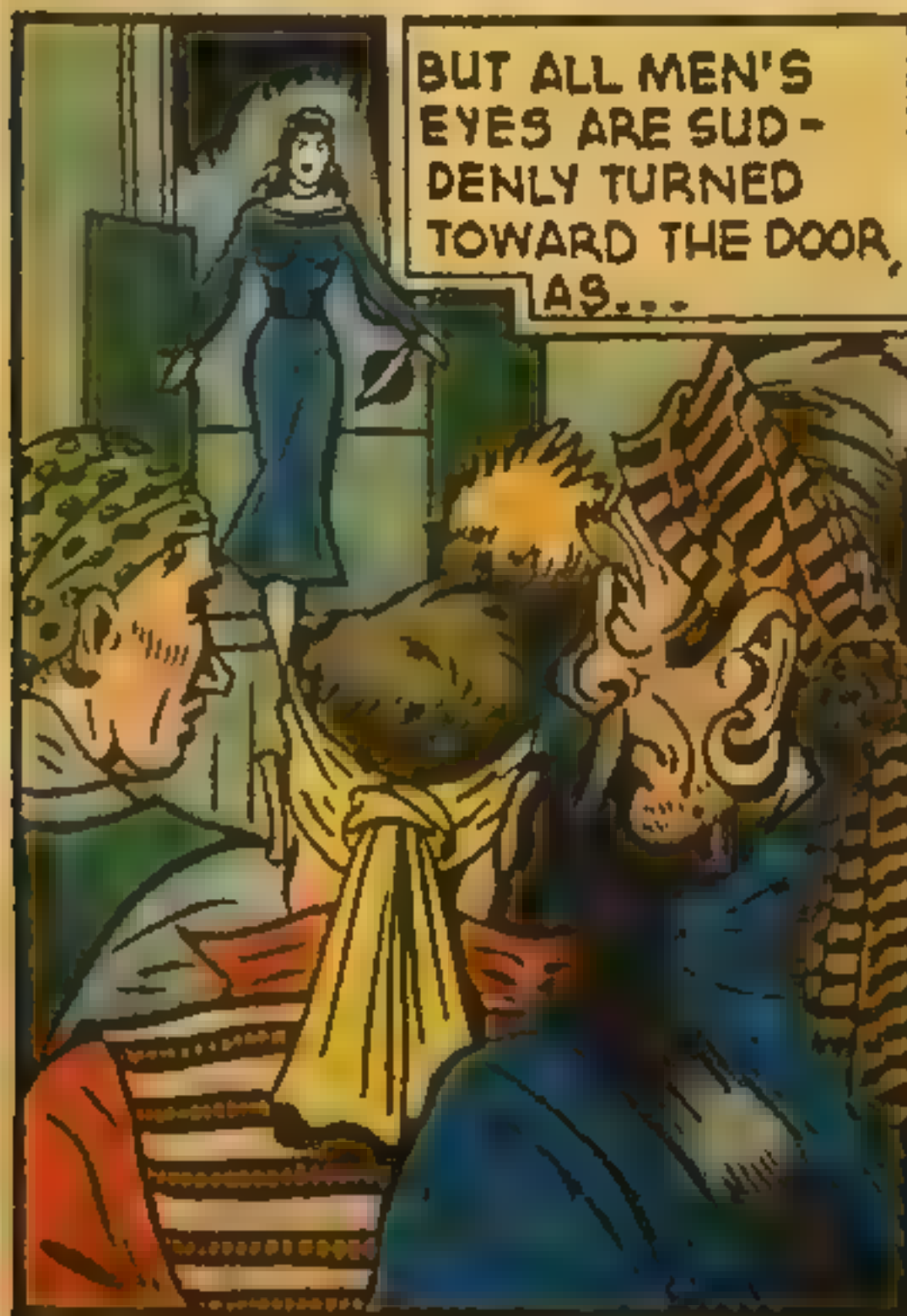
A SHIP OF THIS TYPE WOULD CARRY A CREW OF THIRTY AND PROBABLY ATTAIN A SPEED OF OVER 2000 M.P.H.

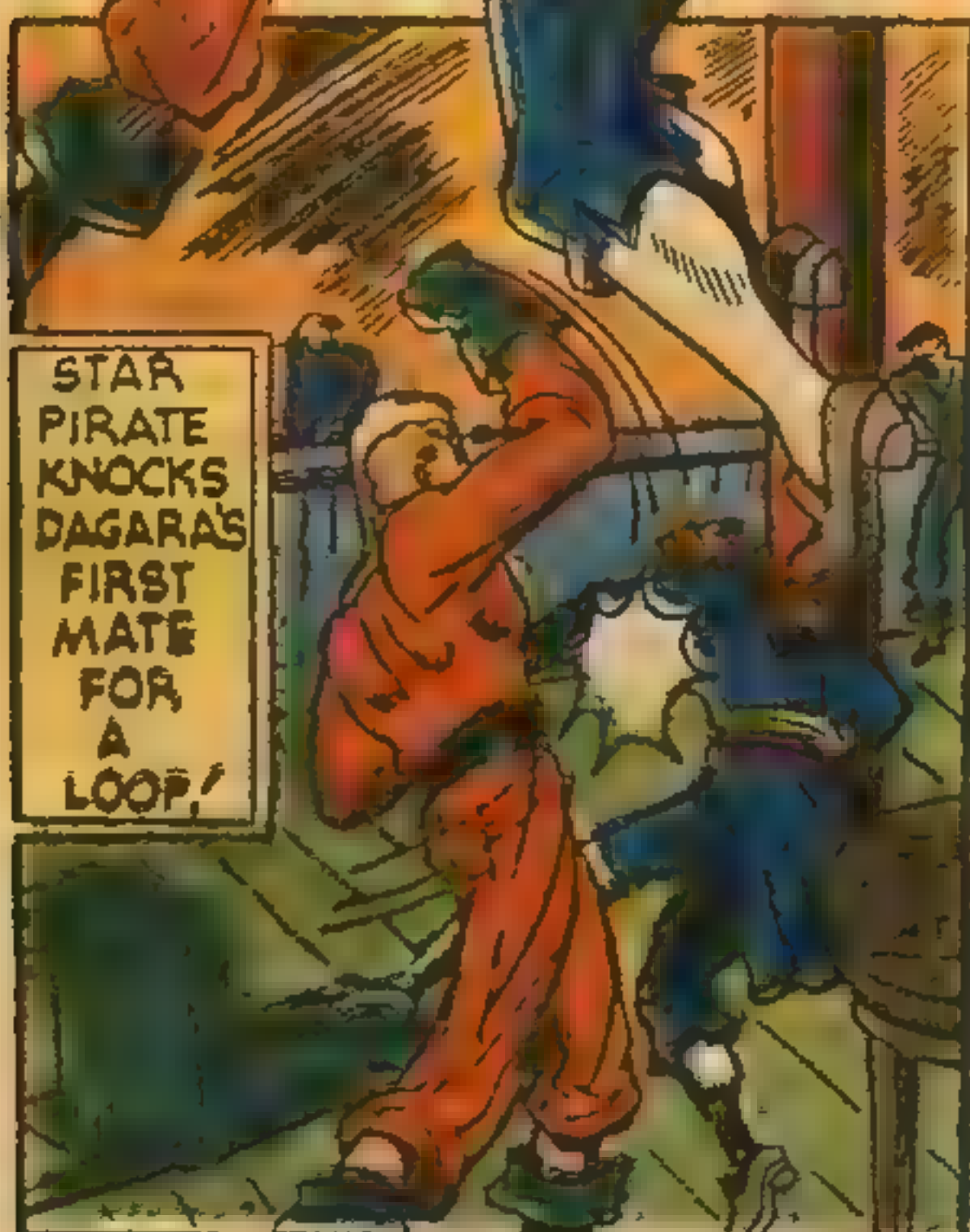
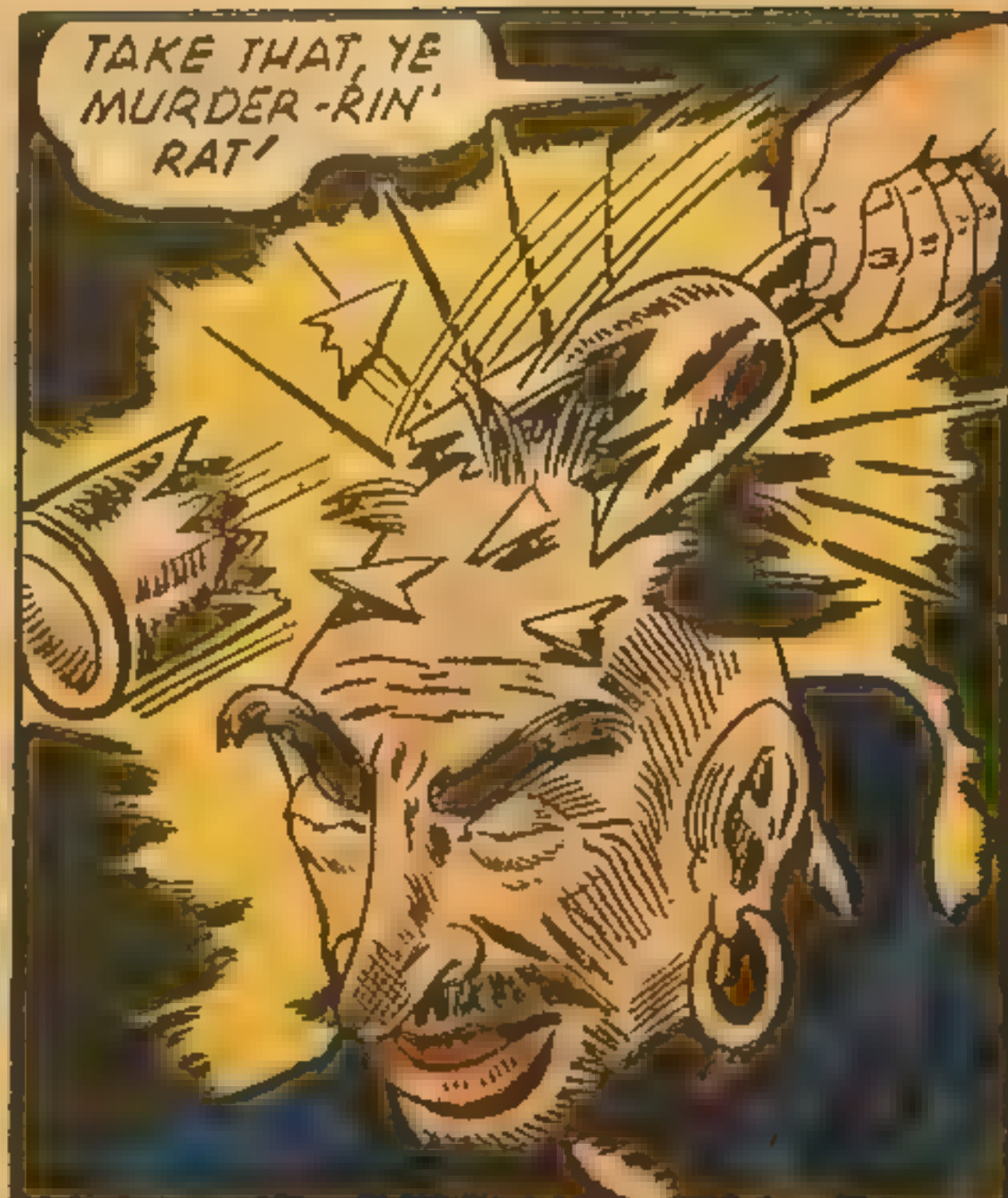
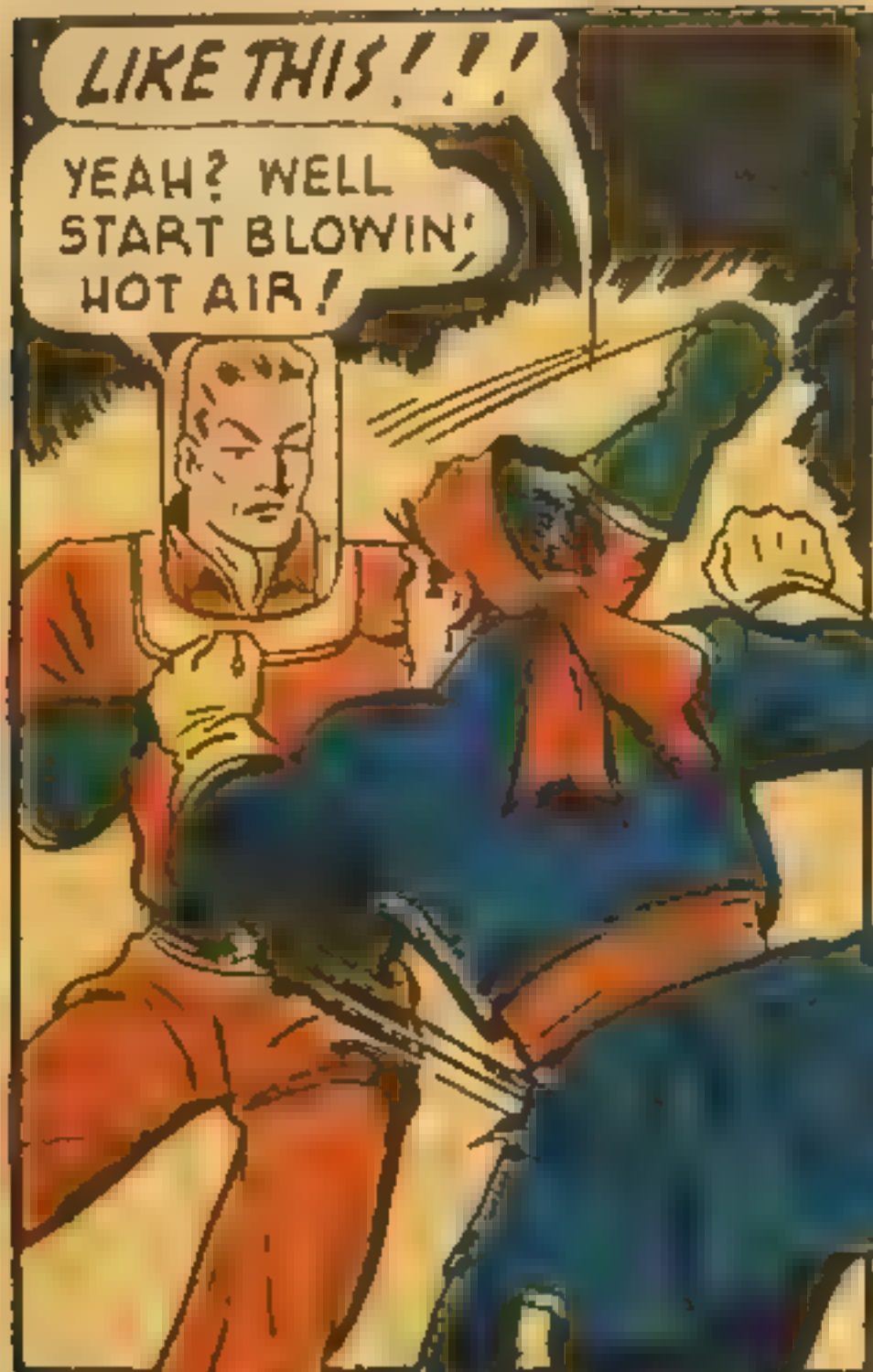




STAR PIRATE AND TRODY PUT IN TO THE EERIE, DESOLATE LITTLE SPACE-PORT OF KEY QUEST.



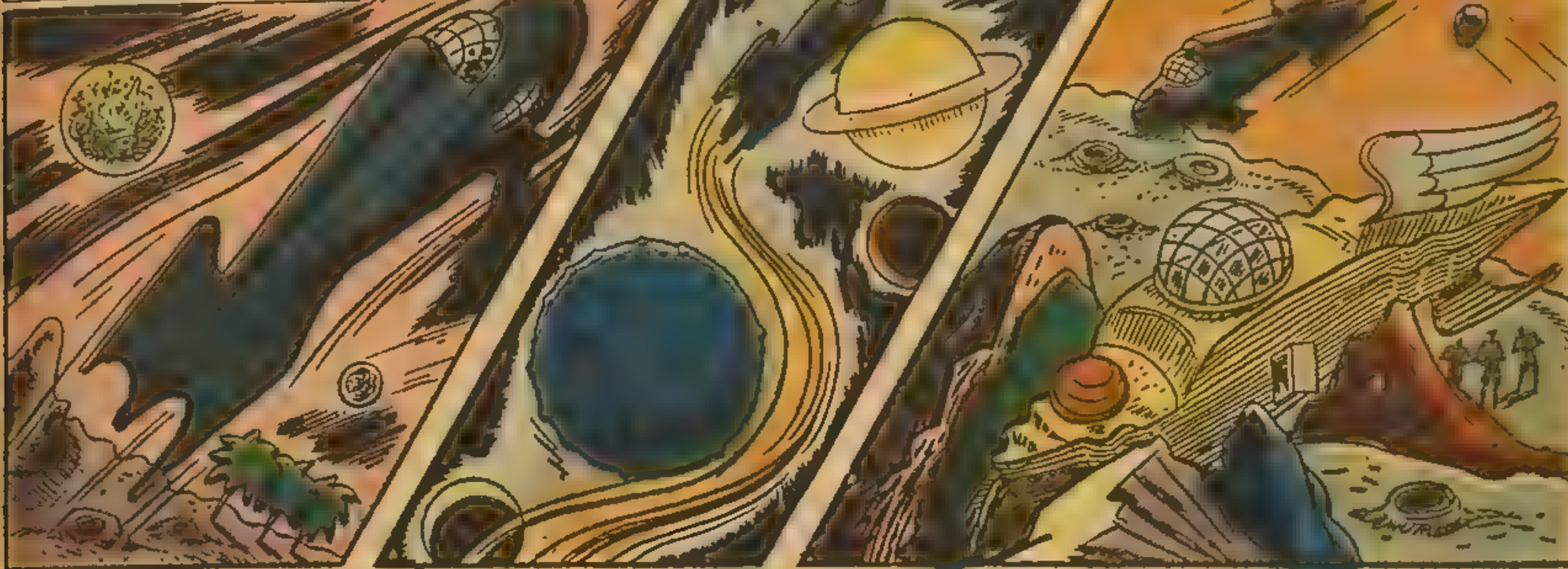




STAR PIRATE AND THE FAITHFUL TRODY ZOOM TOWARD THE WRECK.

DARINGLY, THEY DIVE BETWEEN ASTEROIDS...

...AND ARRIVE FIRST AT THE SCENE OF THE WRECKED SPACE-SHIP!



A YOUNG OFFICER ASSAILS THEM BITTERLY.

YOU SCAVENGERS DIDN'T LOSE ANY TIME GETTING HERE!



I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU THAT HUNDREDS OF MEN WILL DIE BECAUSE OF YOUR PIRACY! THIS SHIP CARRIES PLASTMA FOR IO... THEY'VE HAD AN EPIDEMIC UP THERE!

MAYBE WE'LL SURPRISE YOU!

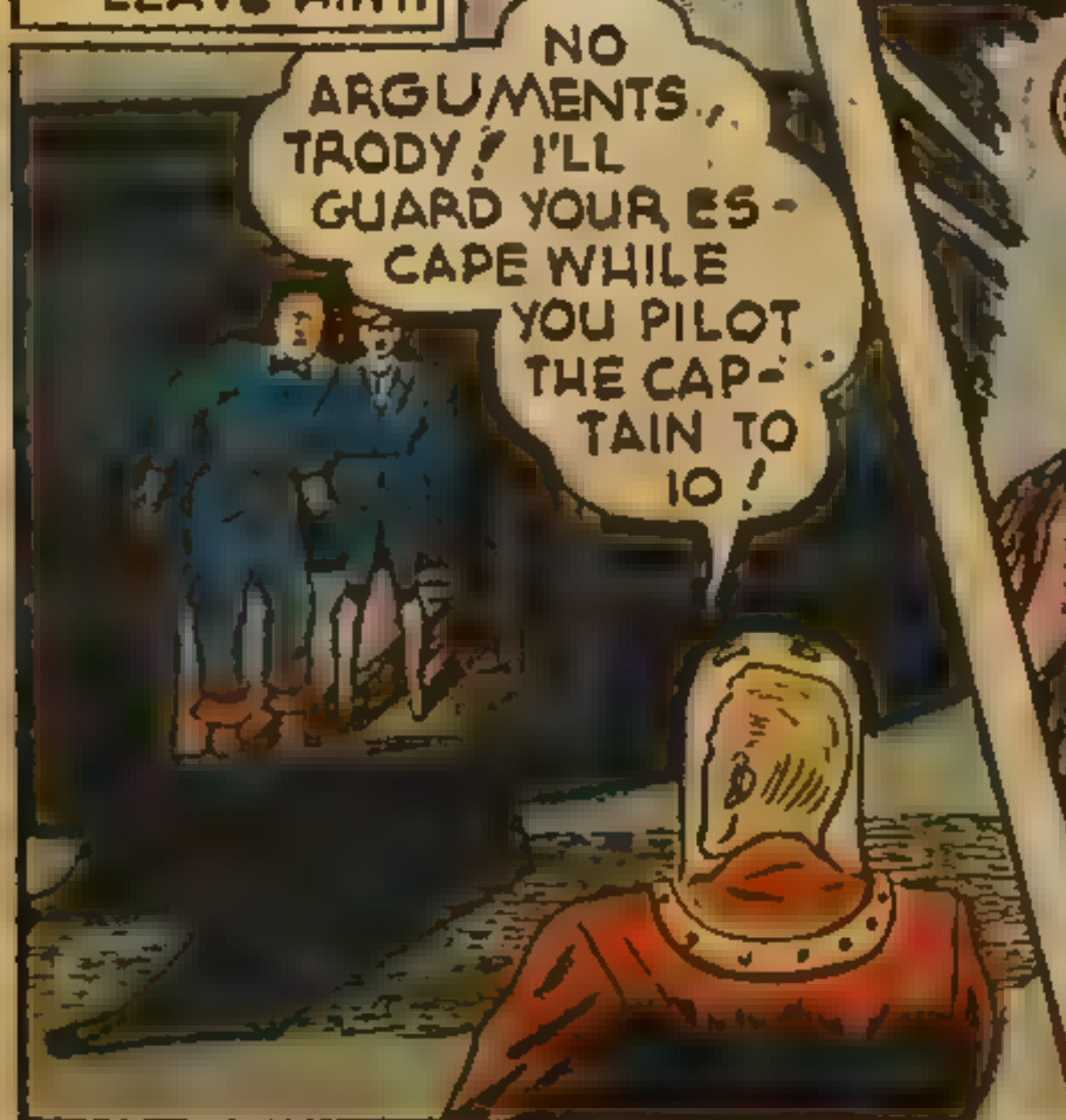


STAR PIRATE GIVES THE OFFICER AN AGREEABLE SURPRISE BY OFFERING TO LEND HIM THE VENGEANCE TO COMPLETE HIS JOURNEY.

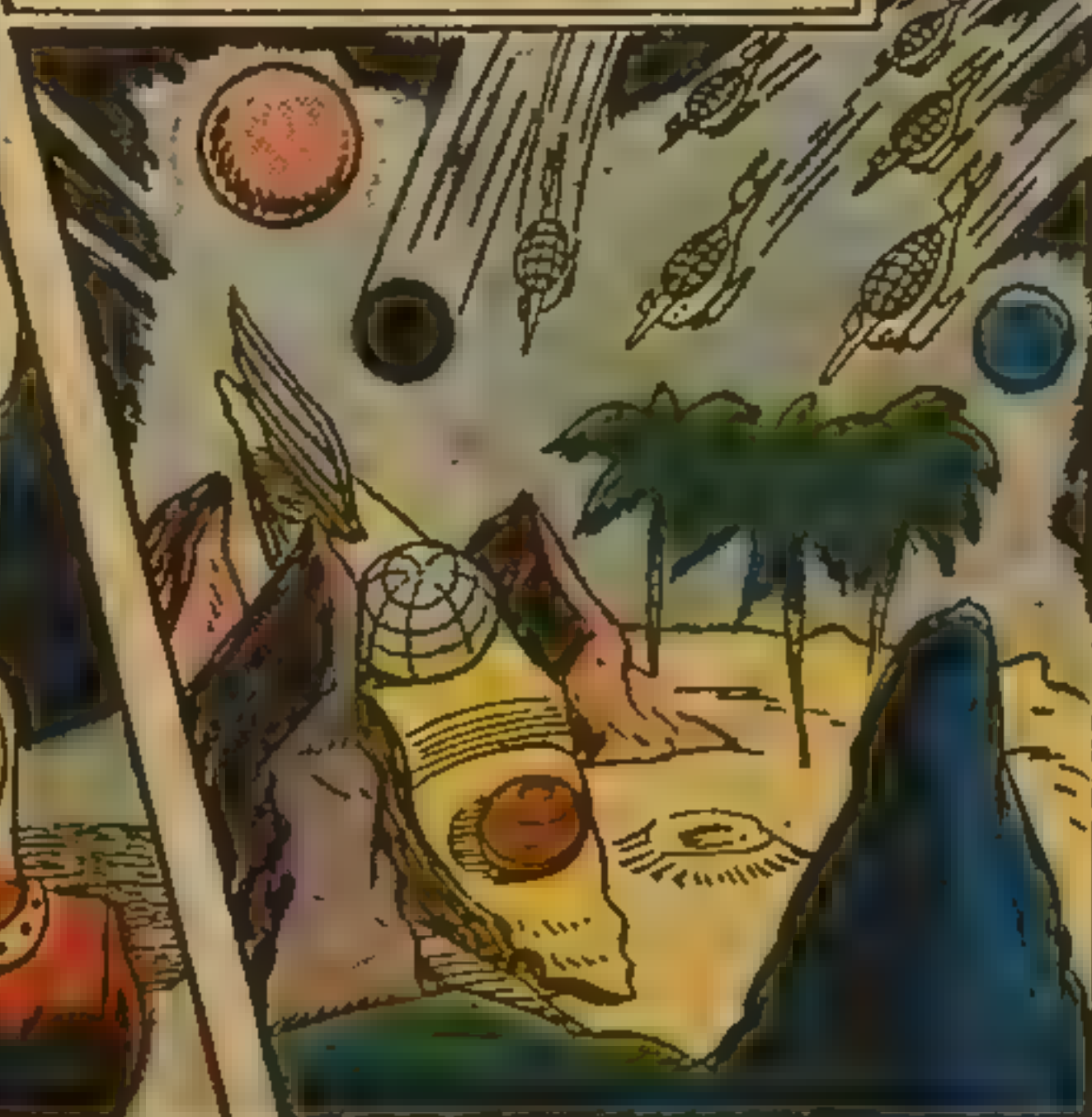


HE ORDERS THE RELUCTANT TRODY TO LEAVE HIM.

NO ARGUMENTS, TRODY! I'LL GUARD YOUR ESCAPE WHILE YOU PILOT THE CAPTAIN TO IO!

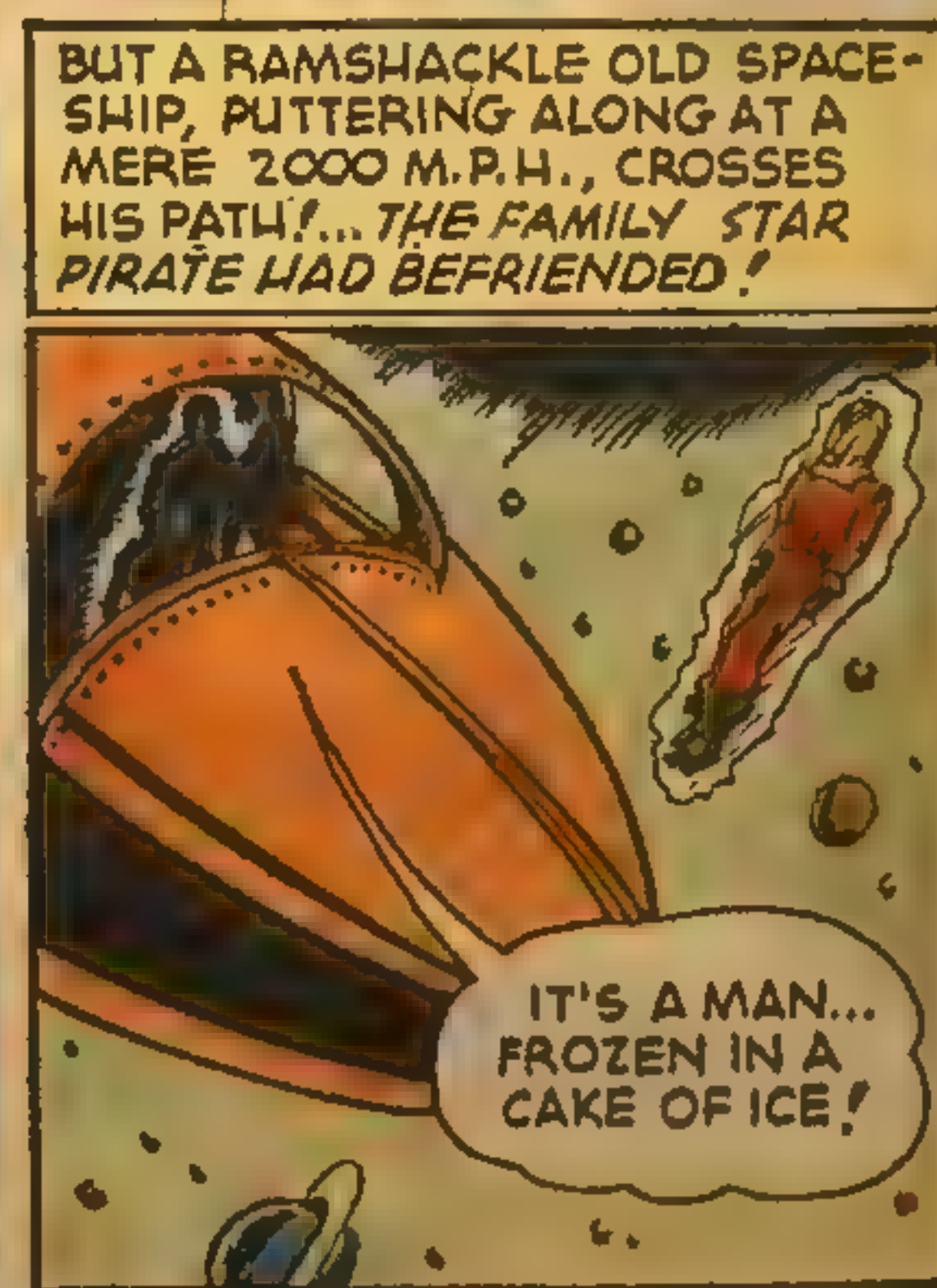
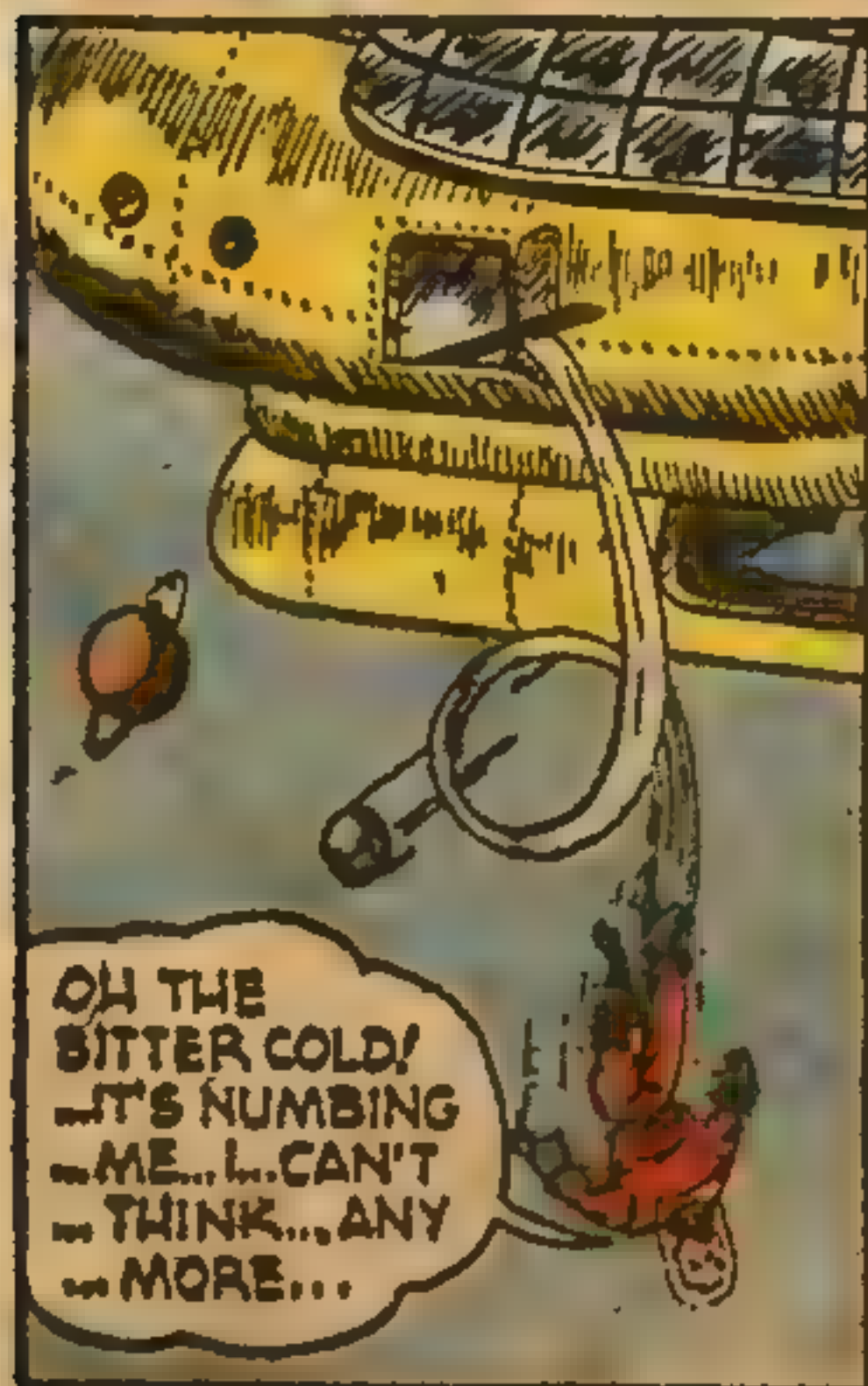
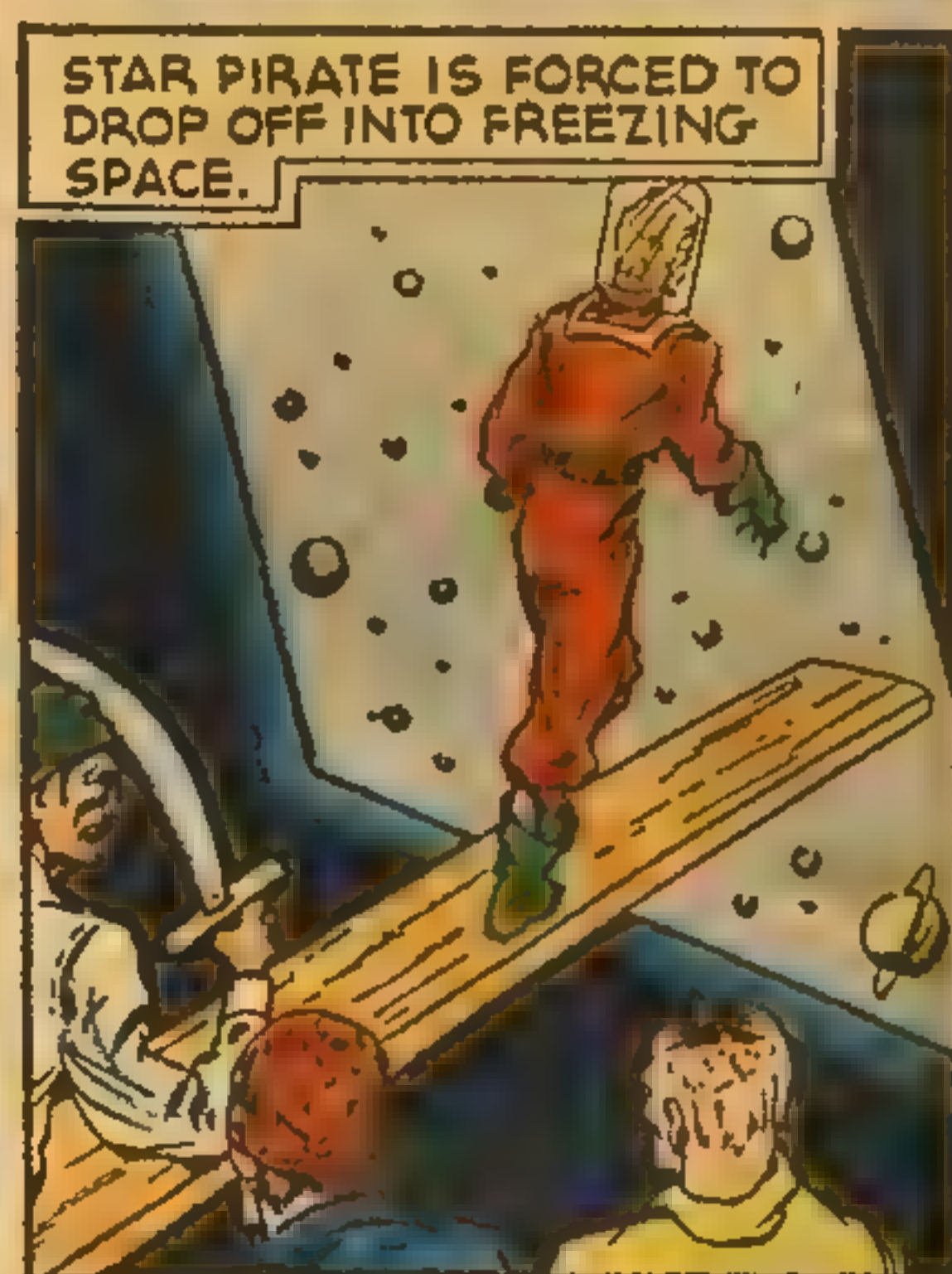
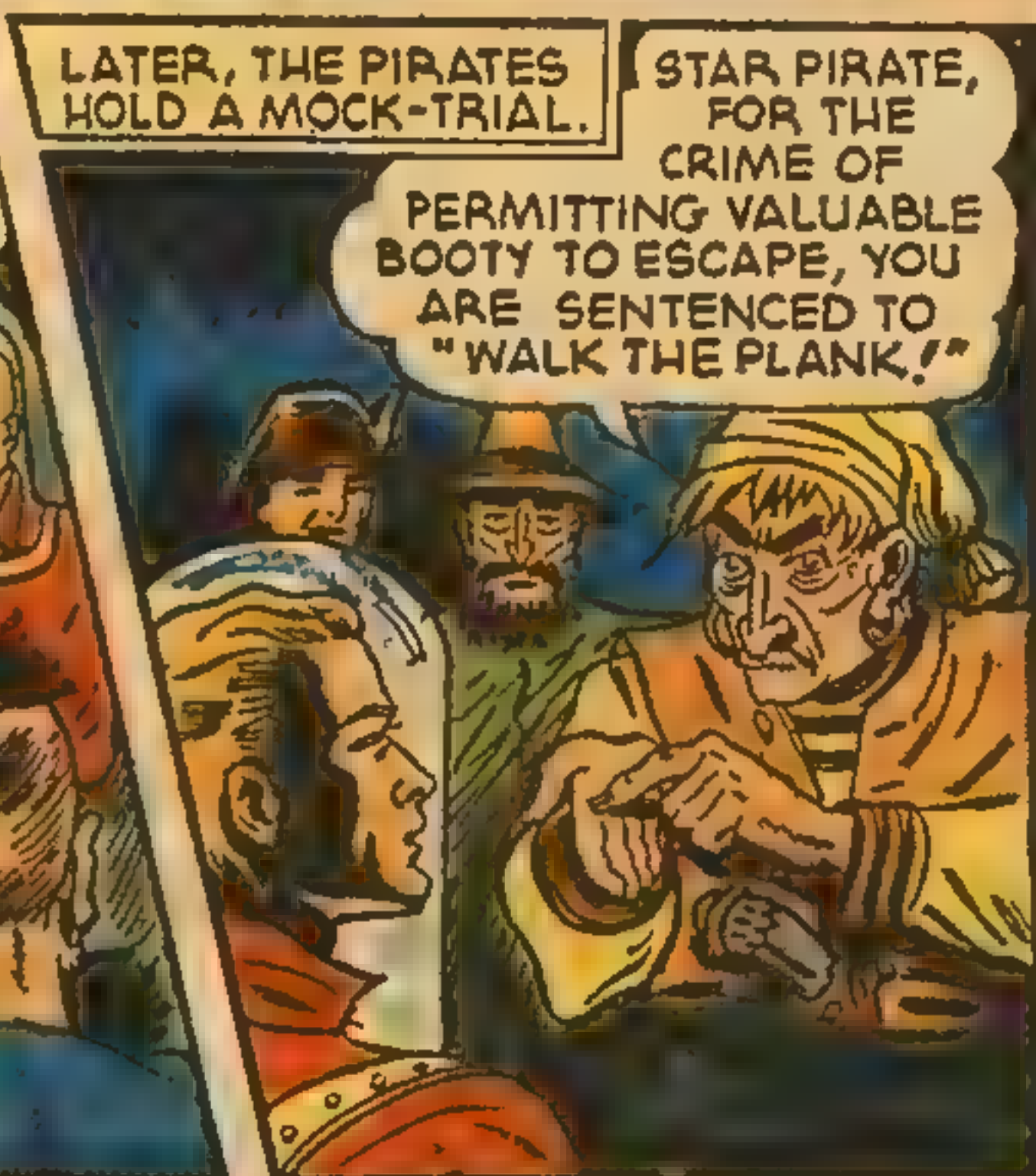
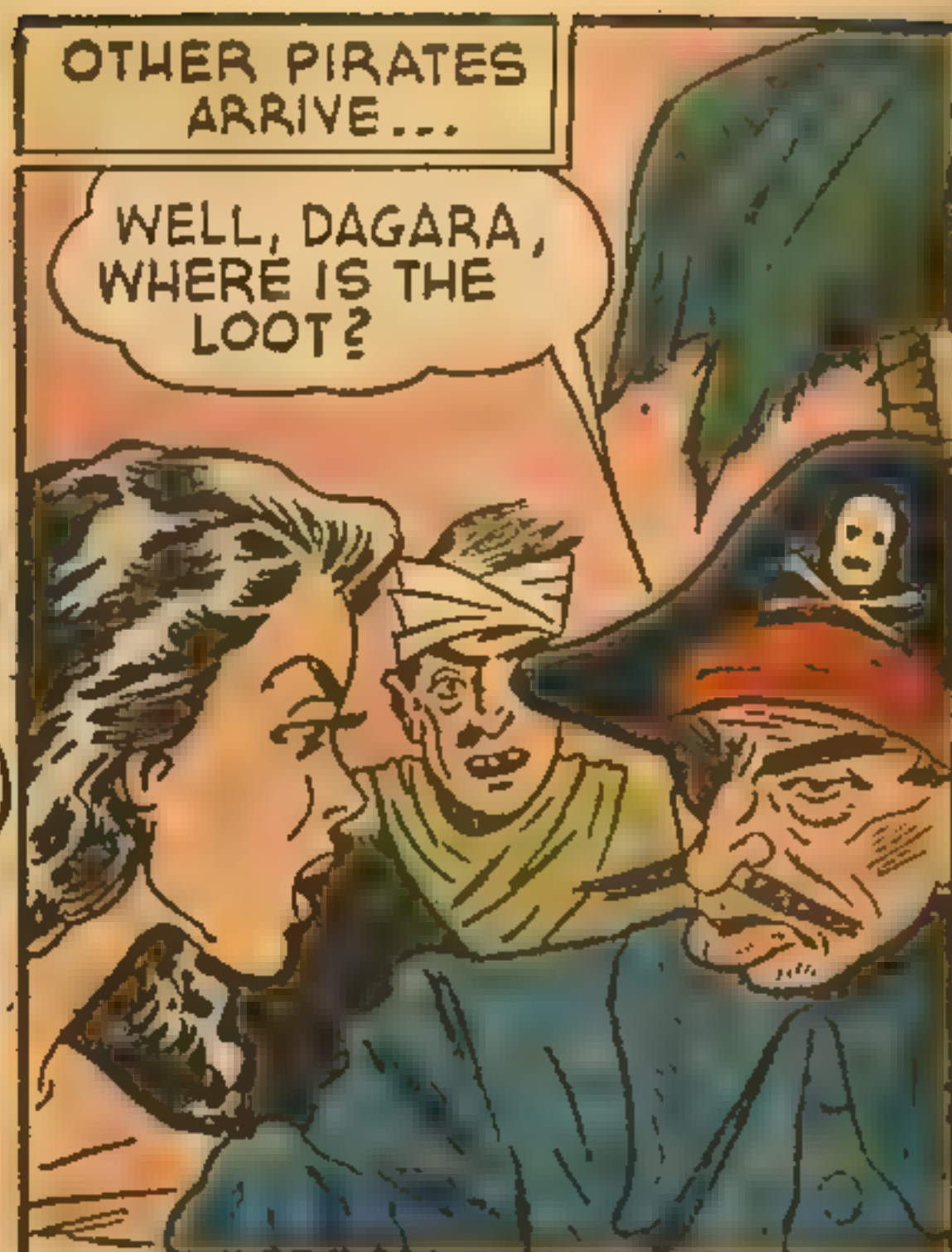
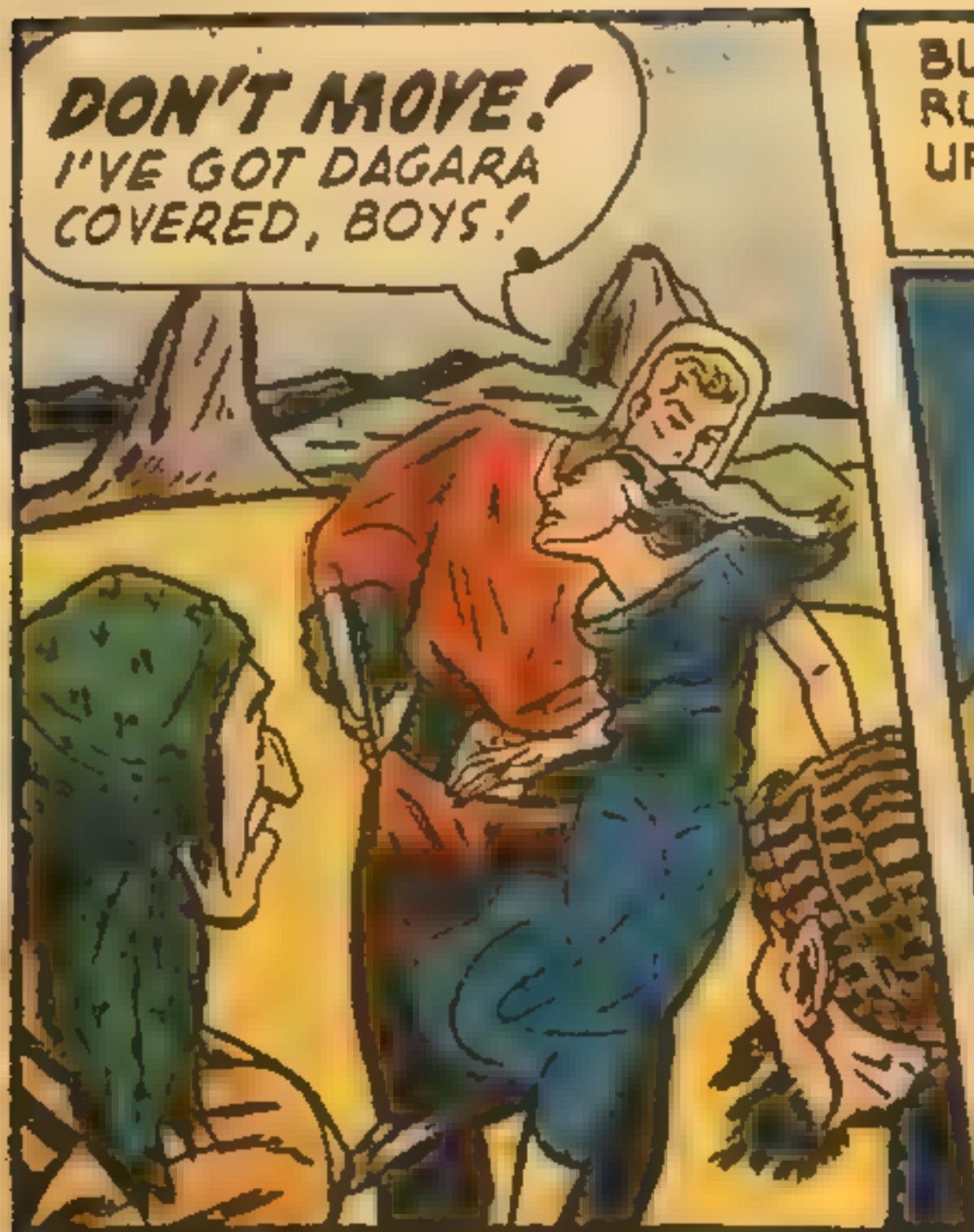


DAGARA'S MEN SWOOP DOWN ON THE WRECKED SPACE-SHIP -



... AND MEET AN UNEXPECTED WELCOME!





STAR PIRATE IS
HAULED ABOARD.

HE IS REVIVED BY THE
EXPERT MINISTRATIONS
OF THE WOMAN'S HUSBAND!

HIS RESCUERS LEAVE STAR
PIRATE AT A SPACE-PORT.

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT
IN A DAY OR
SO!

DISGUISED,
STAR PIRATE
BOARDS A
TRANSPORT
LINER

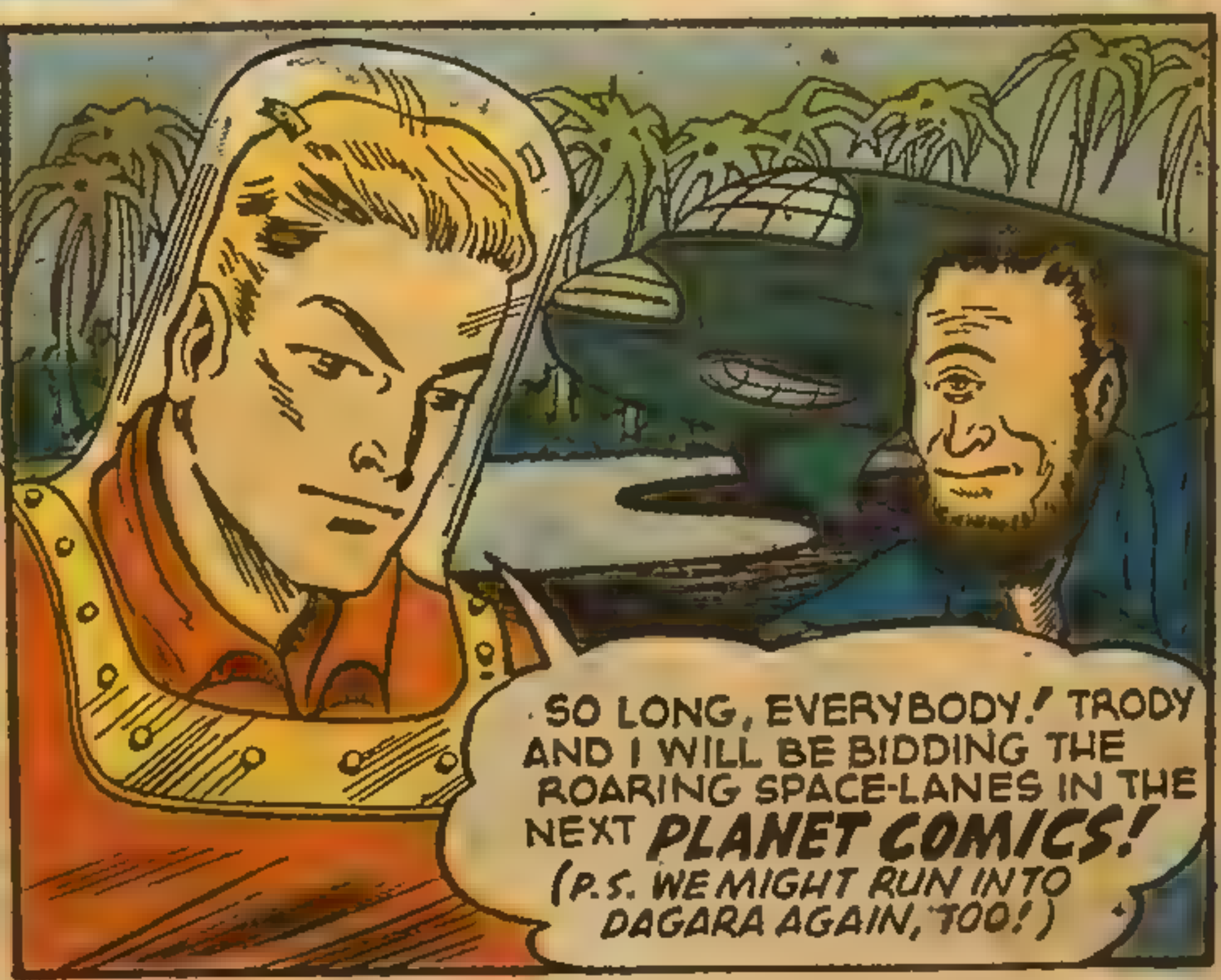
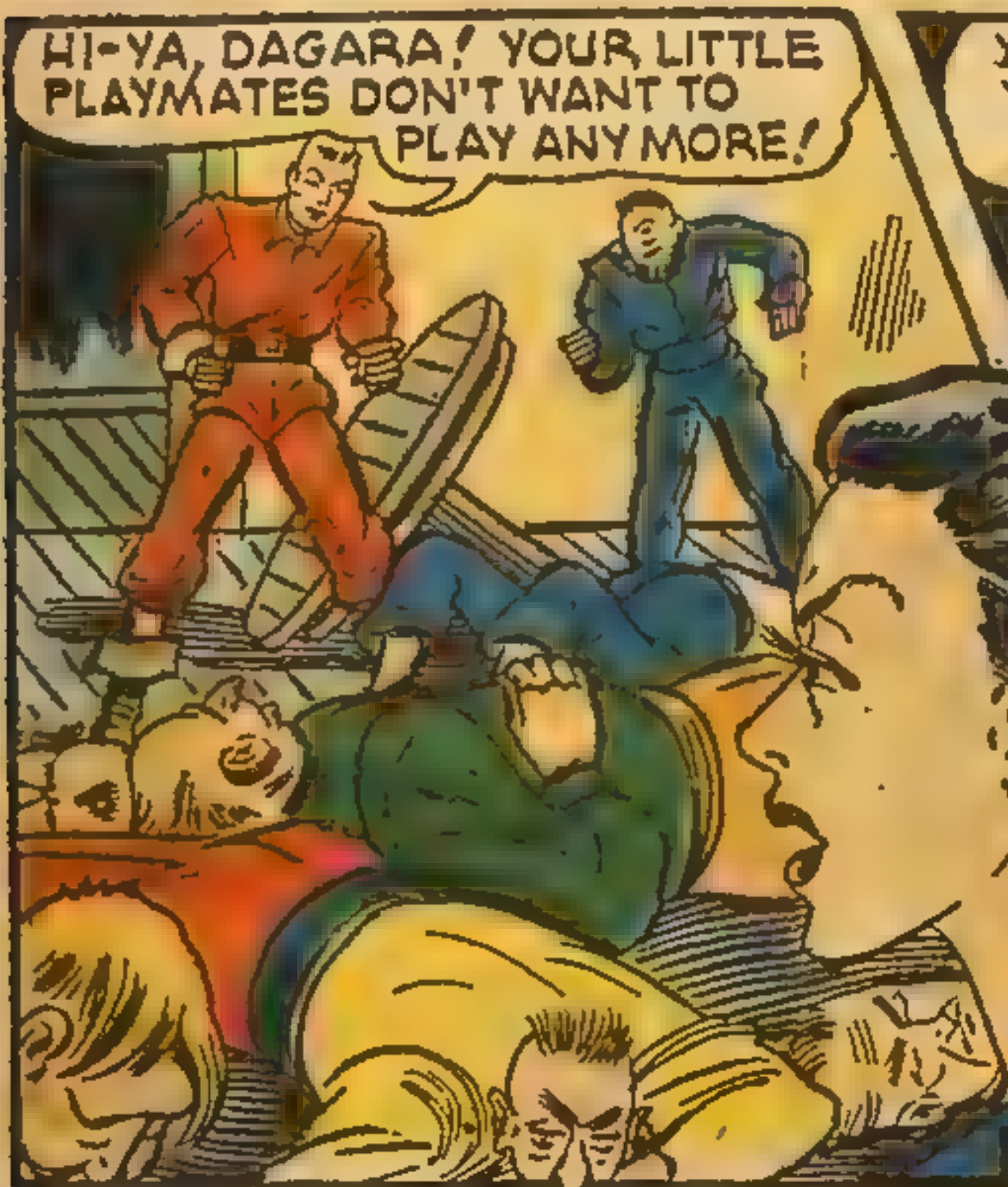
MEANWHILE, POOR OLD TRODY HAS
RETURNED TO KEY QUEST... ONLY TO
FIND THAT STAR PIRATE IS PRESUM -
ABLY DEAD !

WA'AL, STRANGER
BETWEEN YOU AN'
ME, WE HAD TO KILL
YORE PODNER...

STAR PIRATE,
GONE! I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!
HE WAS THE
BEST FRIEND
A MAN
EVER
HAD!

YE DIRTY MURDERERS!
YE MAY GET ME. BUT I'LL
TAKE SOME O' YE WITH
ME BEFORE I GO!

JUST A MINUTE,
TRODY! YOU
OUGHT TO HAVE
A LITTLE HELP,
DON'T YOU THINK?

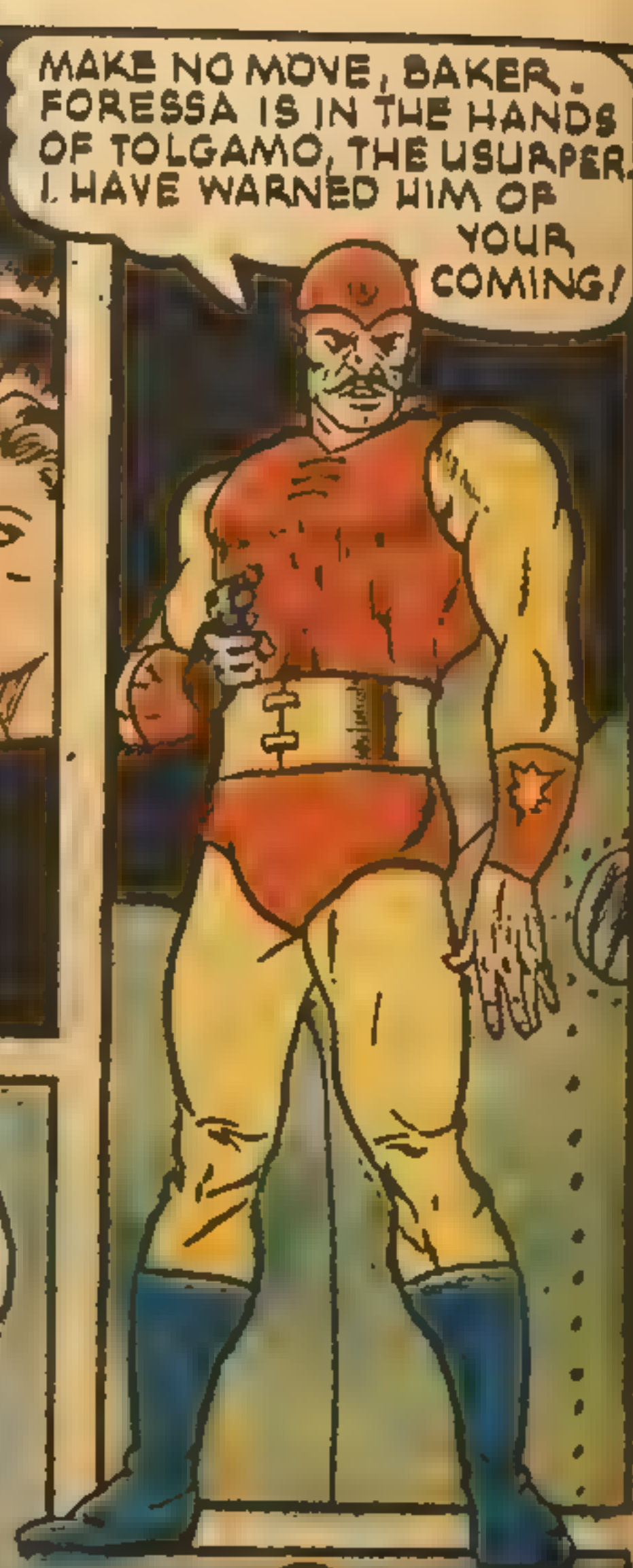
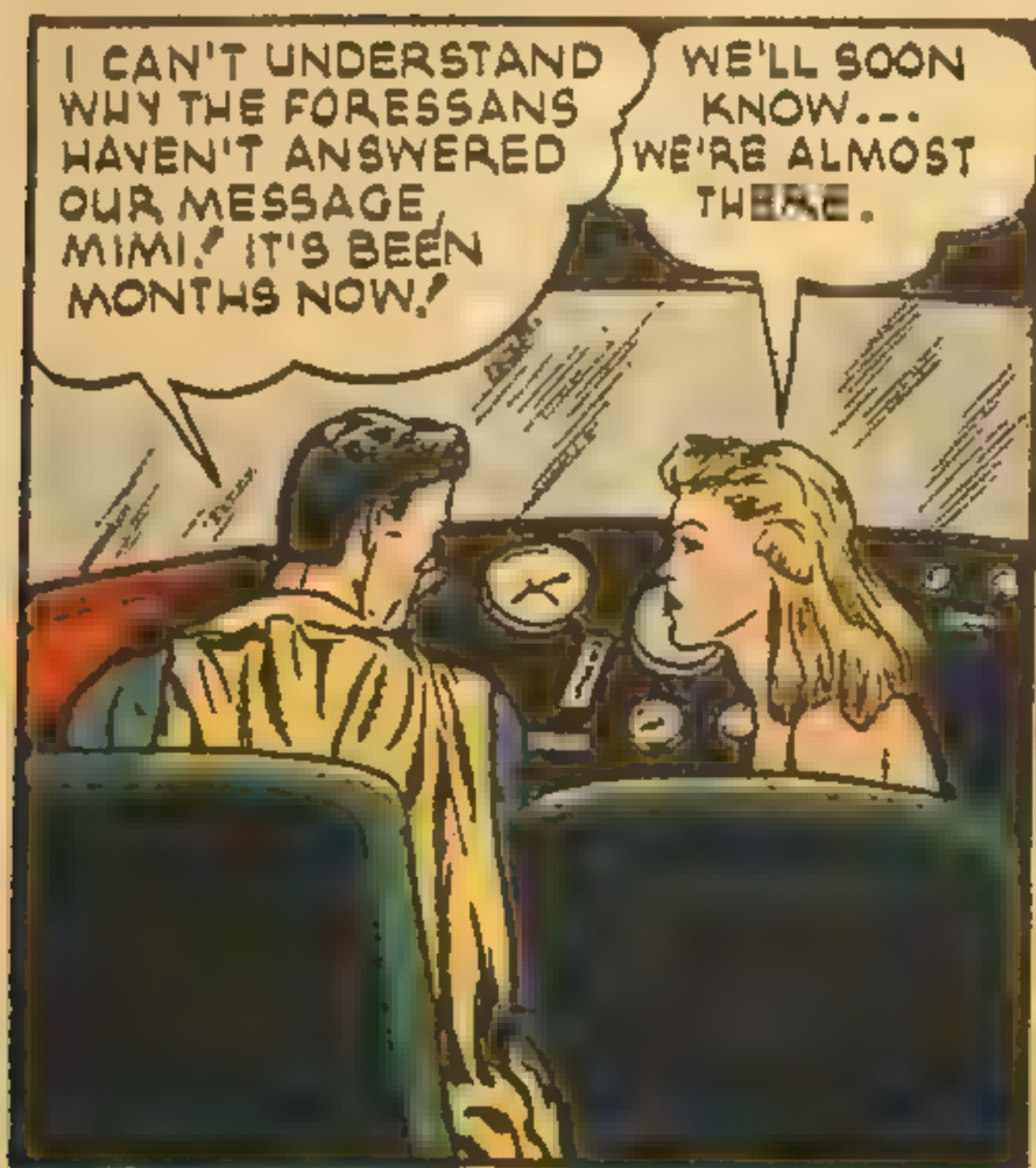


SO LONG, EVERYBODY! TRODY AND I WILL BE BIDDING THE ROARING SPACE-LANES IN THE NEXT **PLANET COMICS!**
(P.S. WE MIGHT RUN INTO DAGARA AGAIN, TOO!)

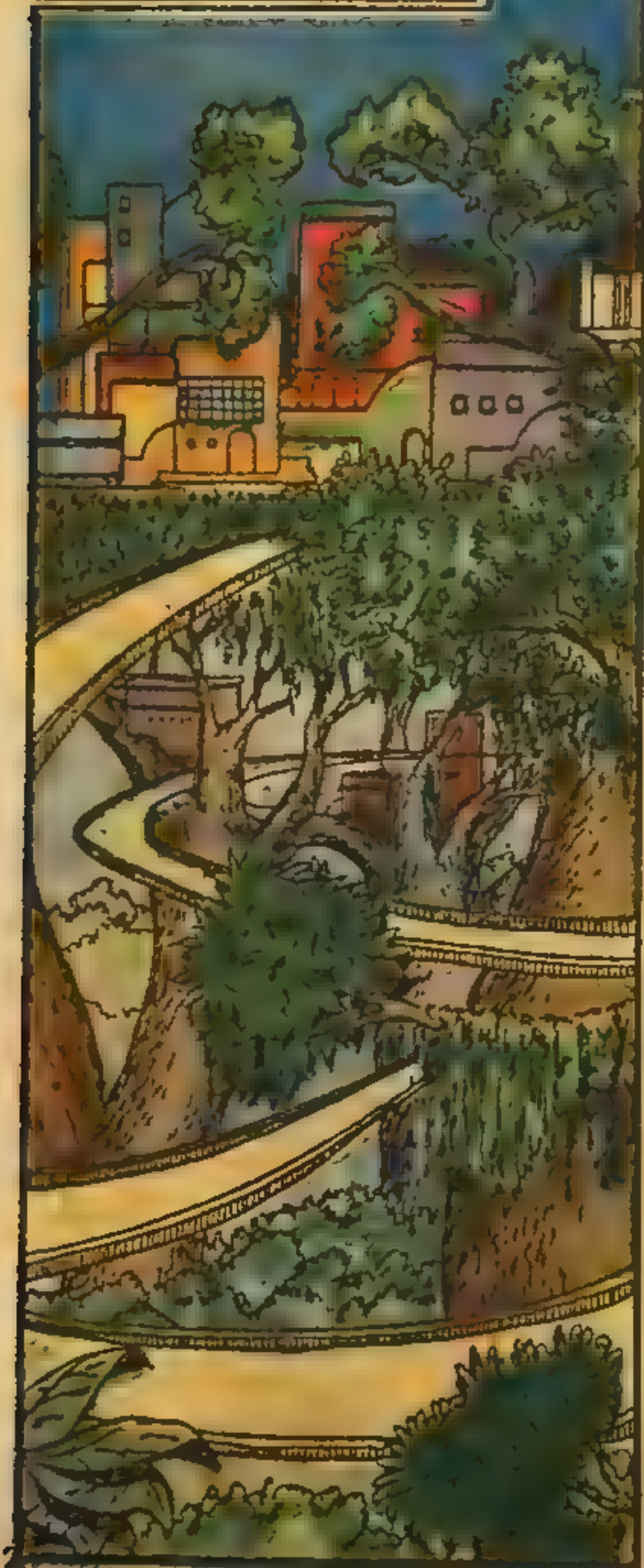
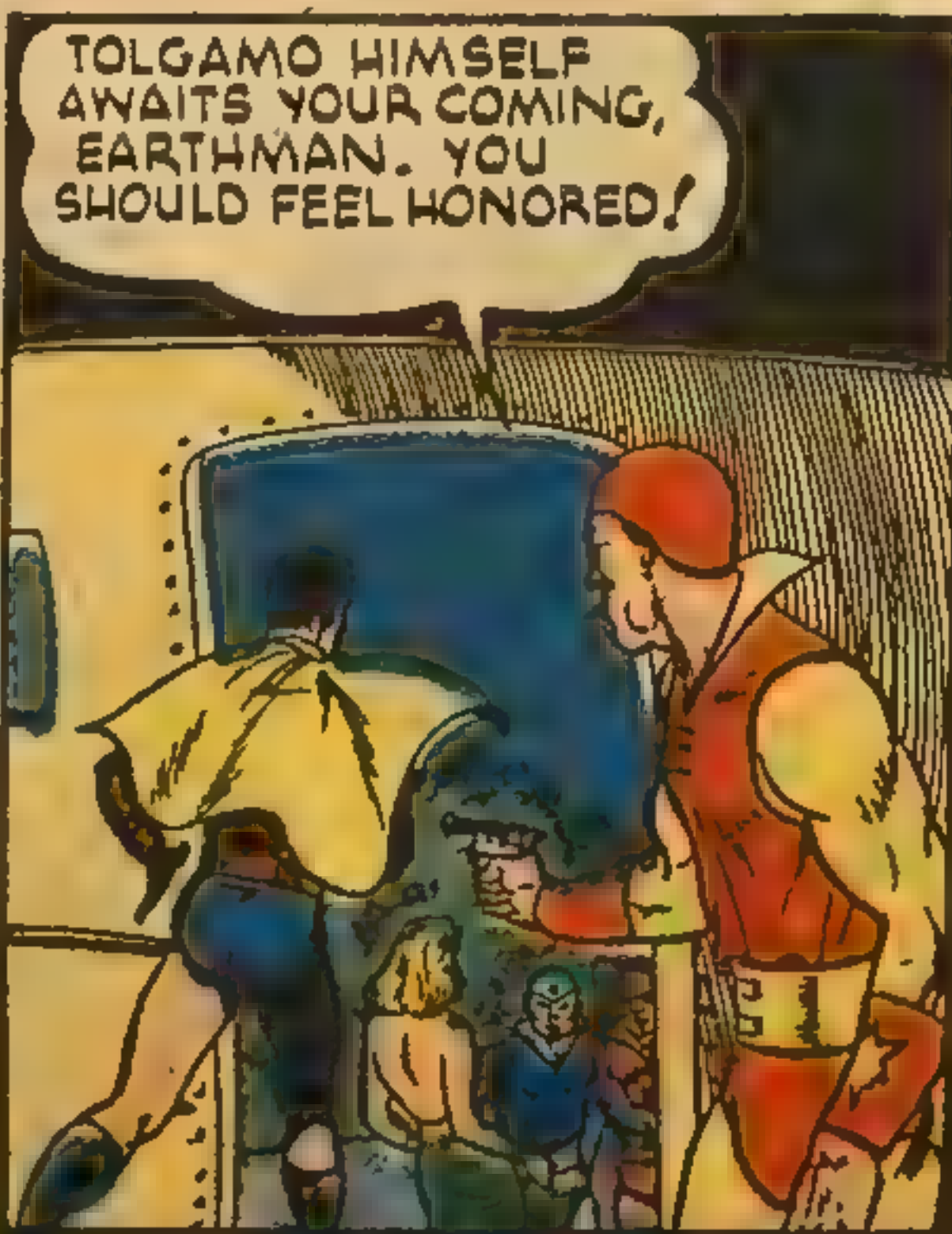
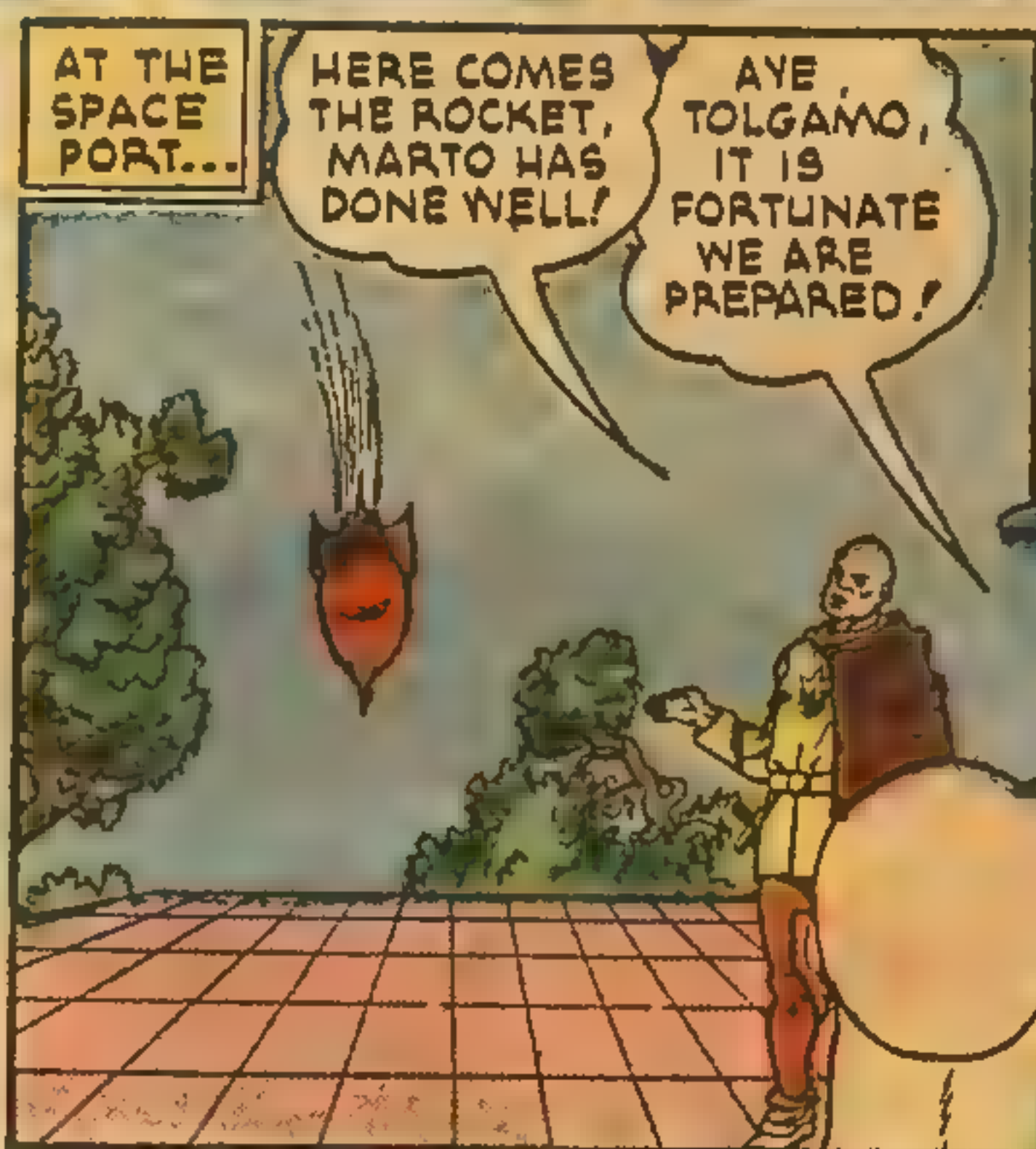
FLINT BAKER

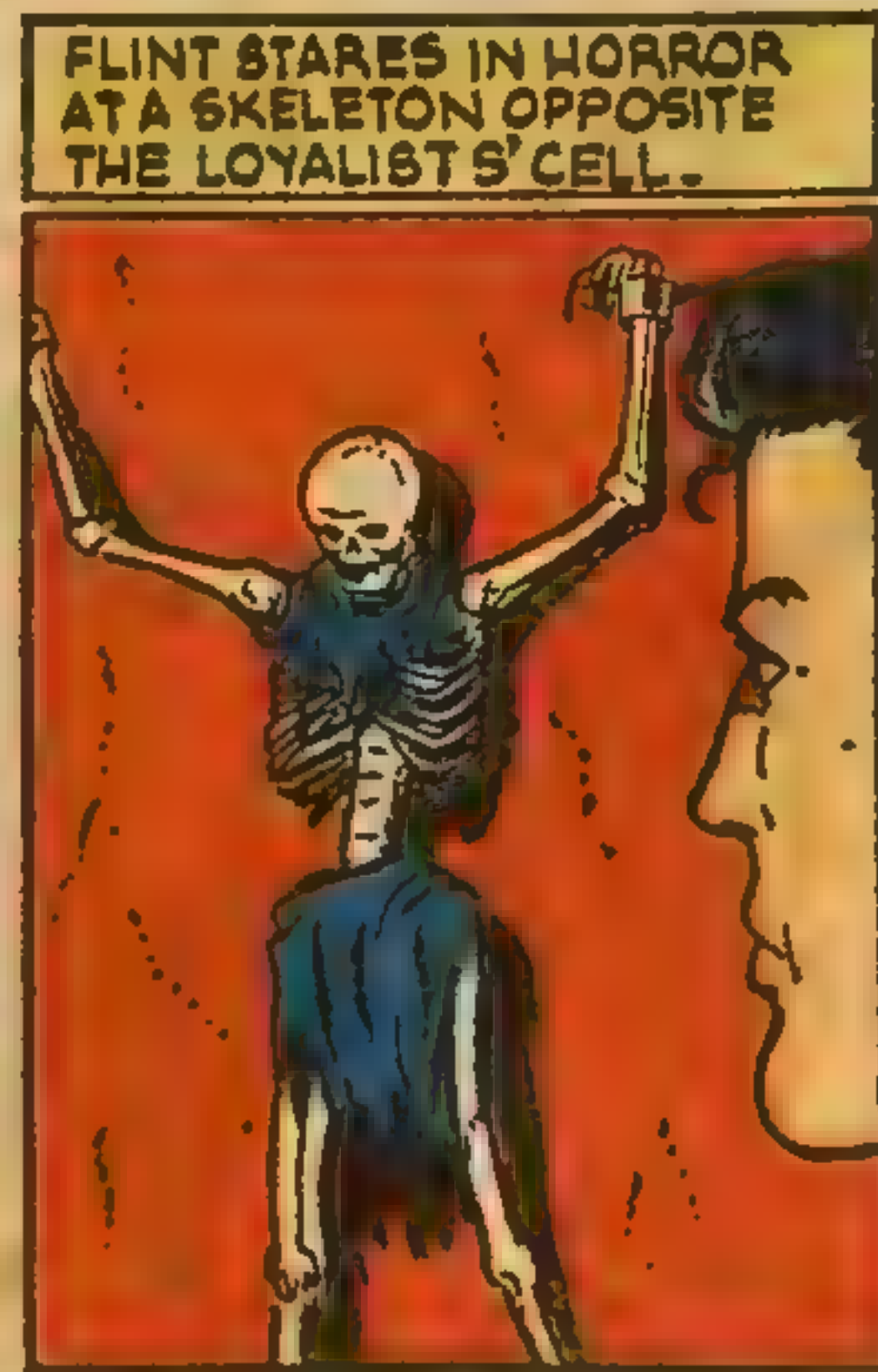
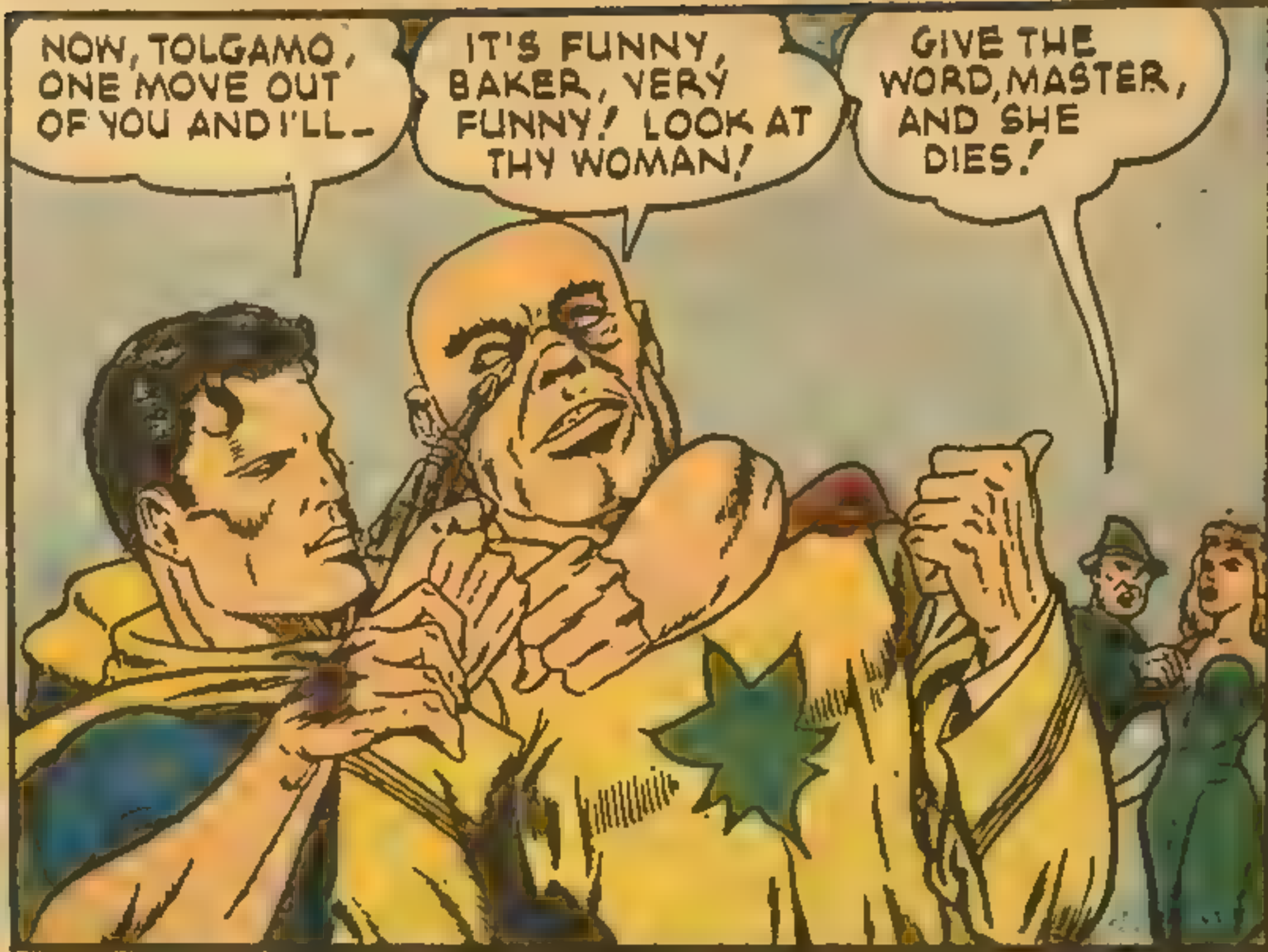
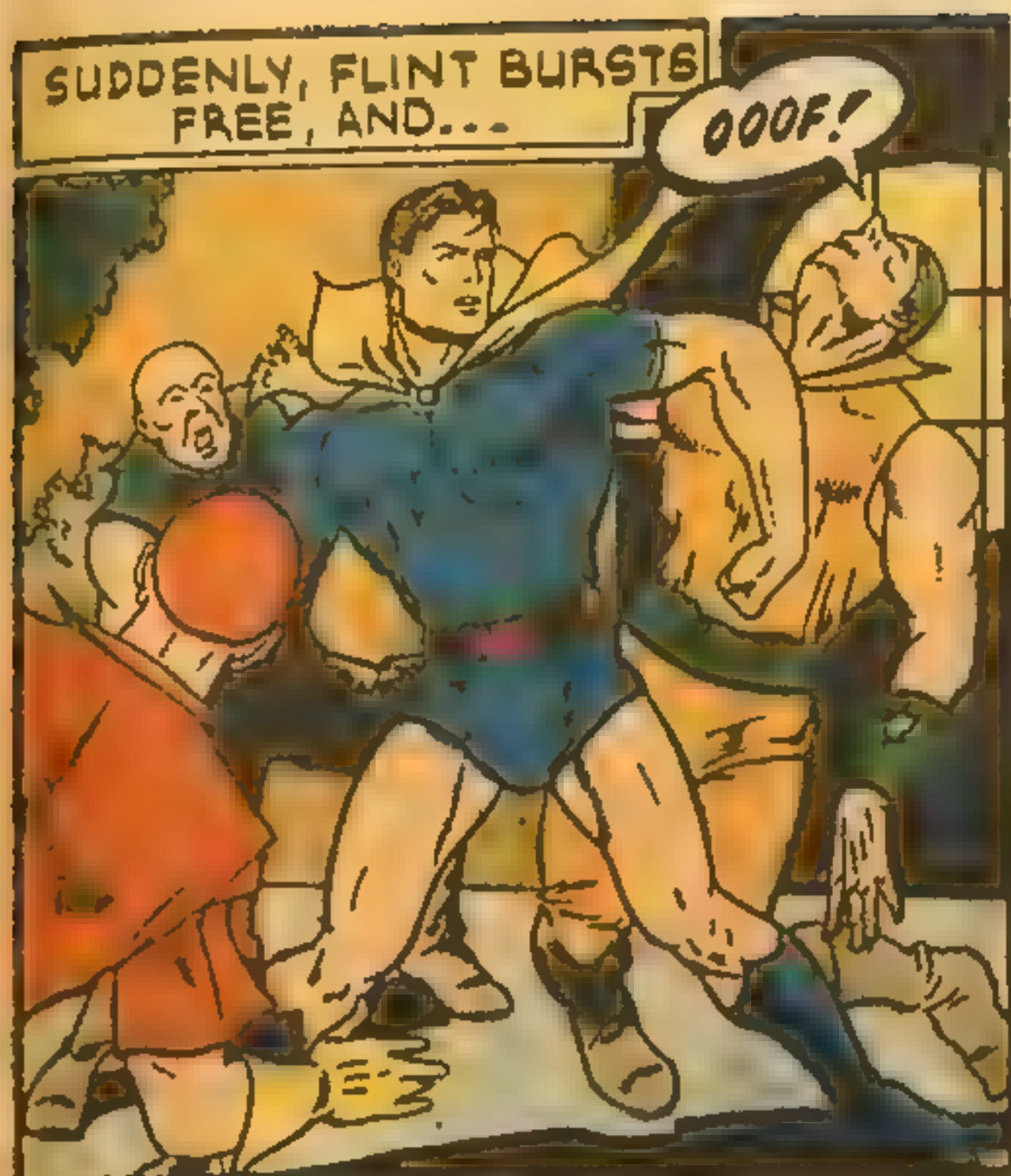
by Al Schmidt

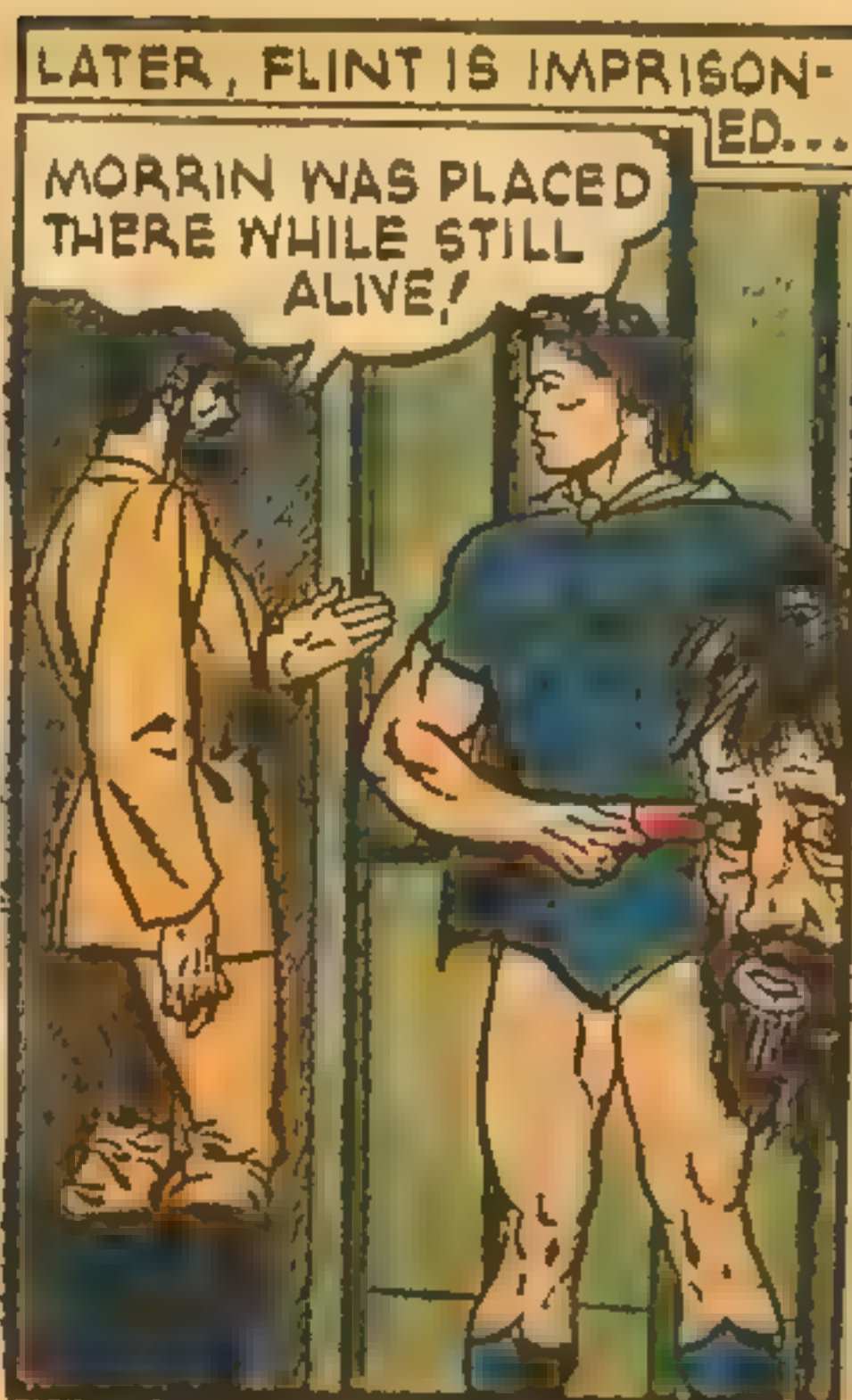




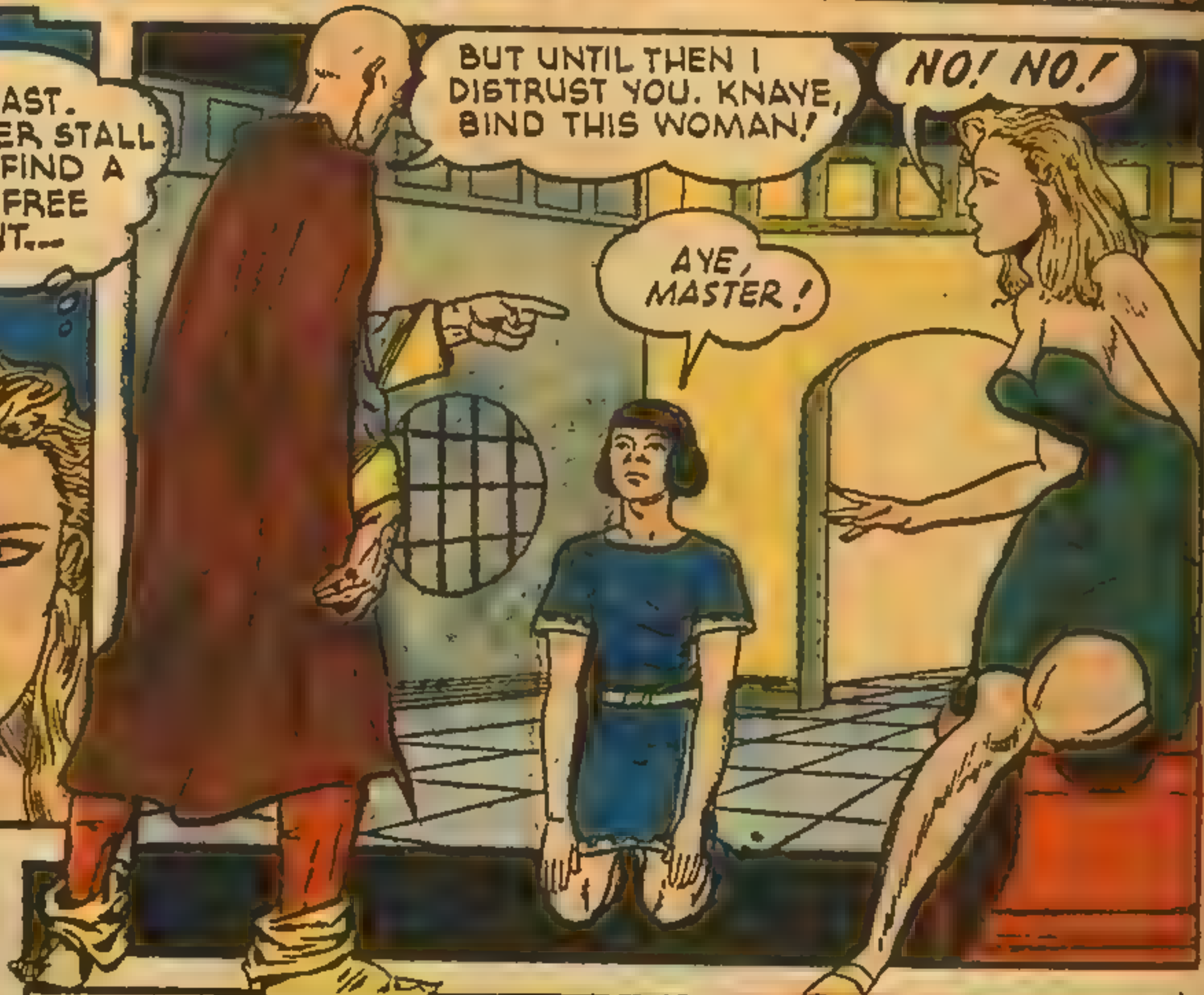
HIGH IN STately TREES ON URANUS' OUTER EDGE, LIES THE MODERN CITY OF AN ADVANCED CIVILIZATION, FORESSA, THE TREE KINGDOM!





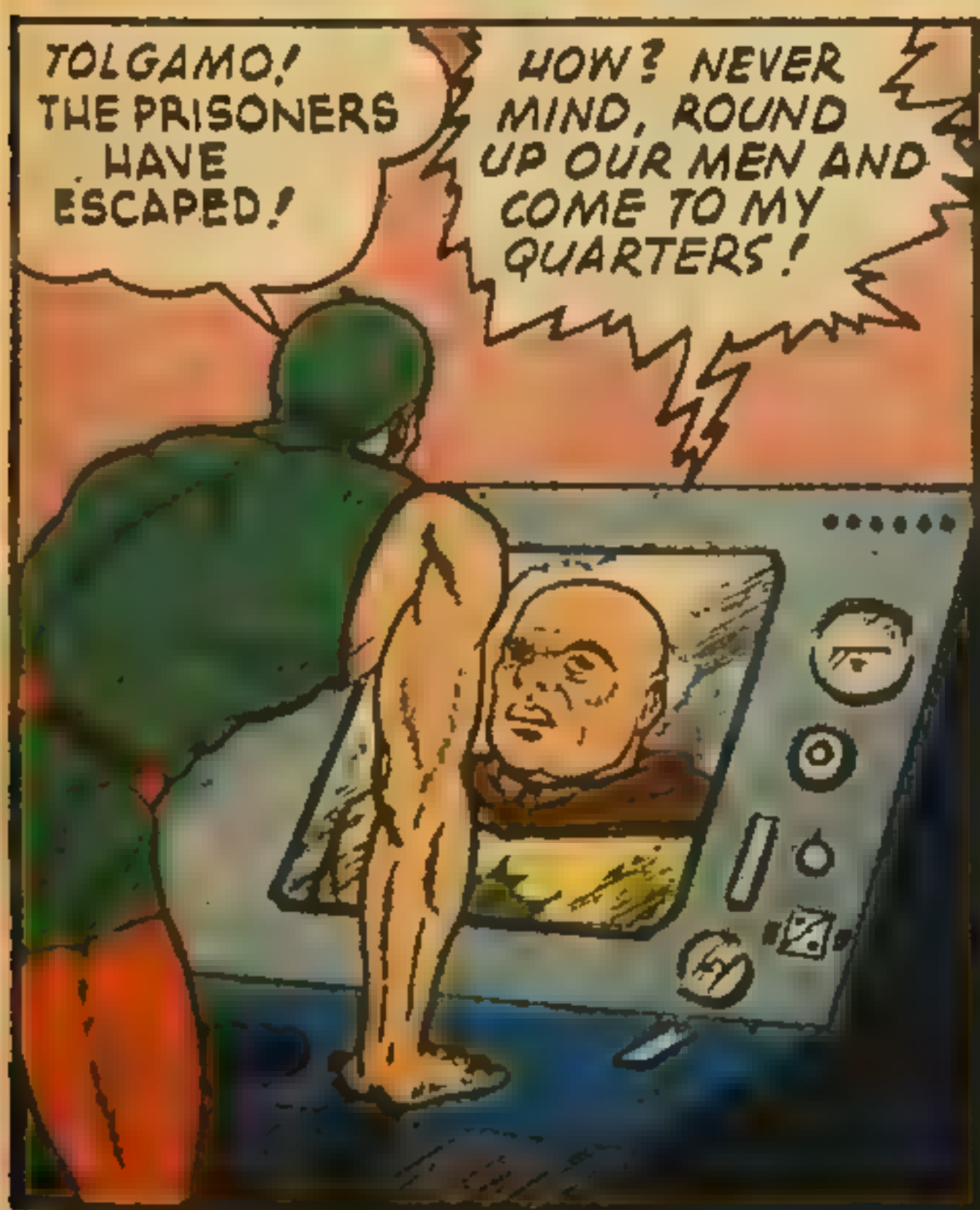
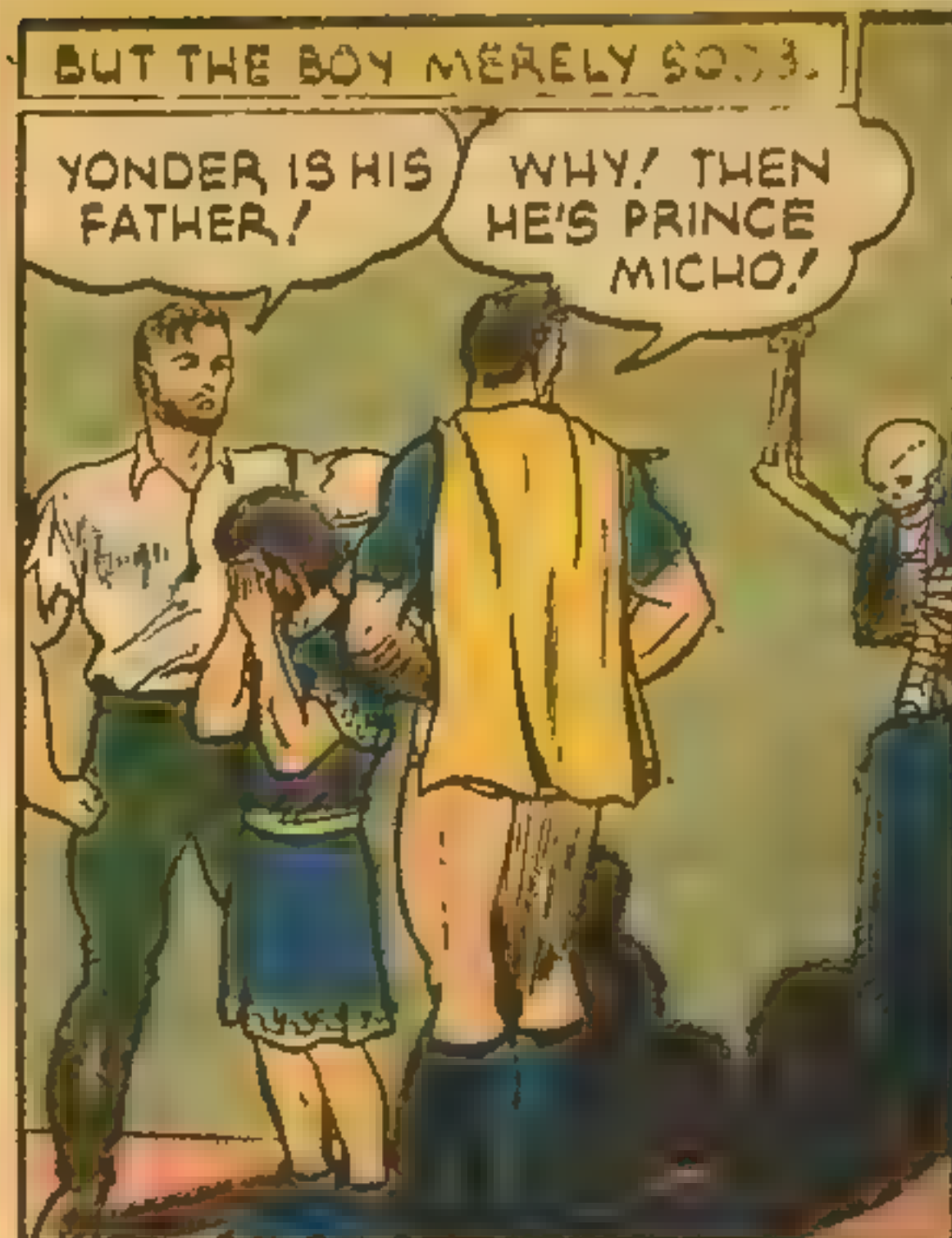


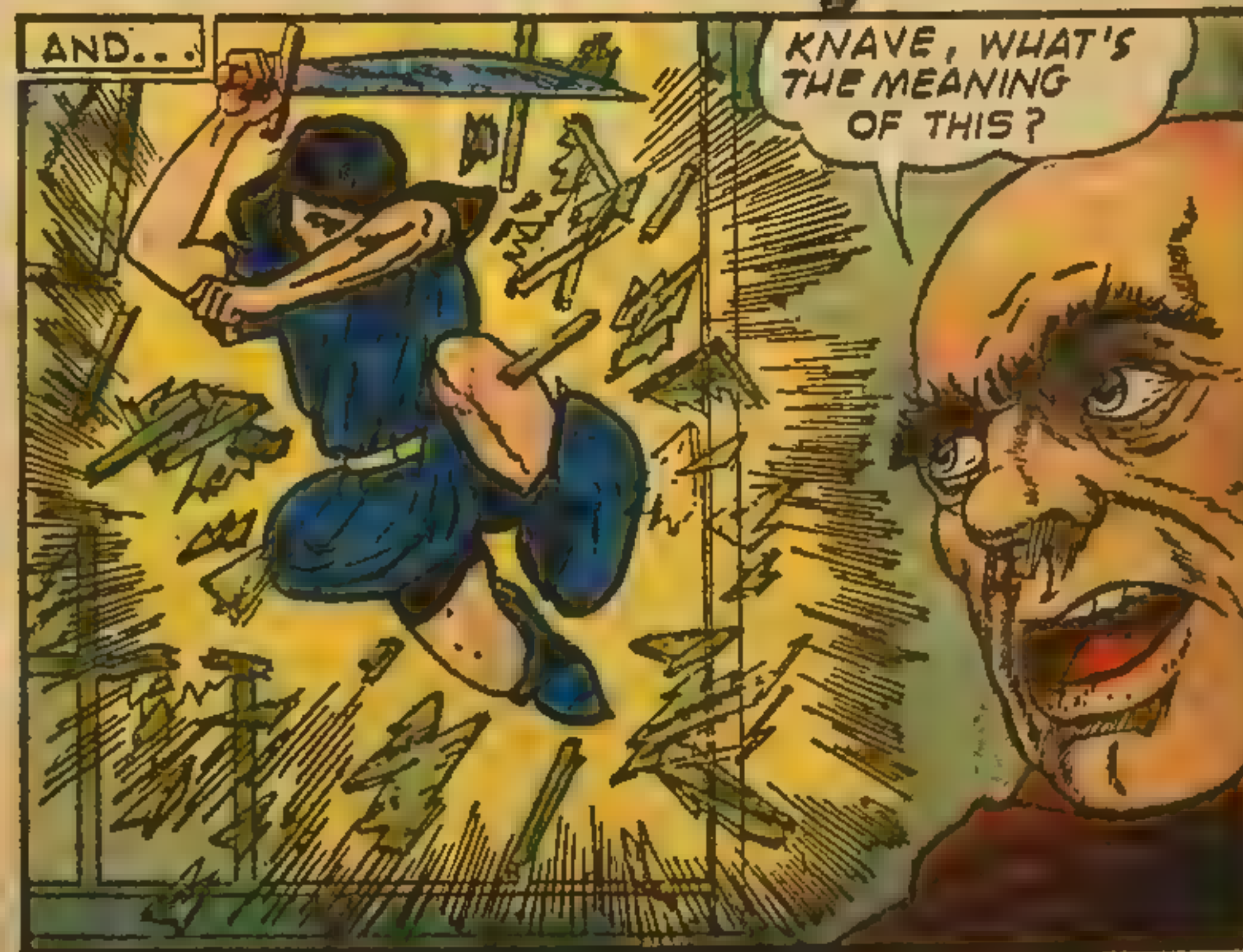
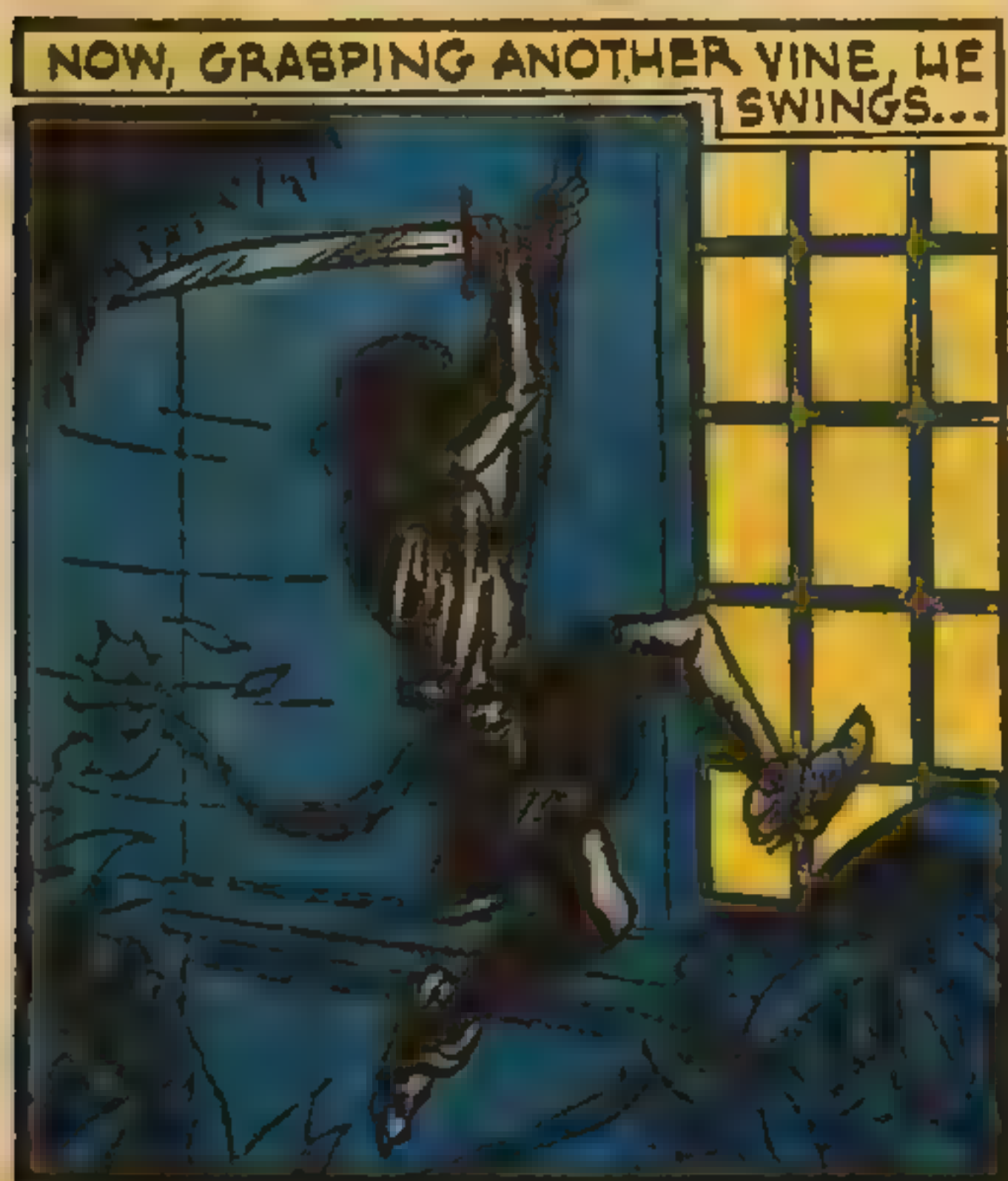
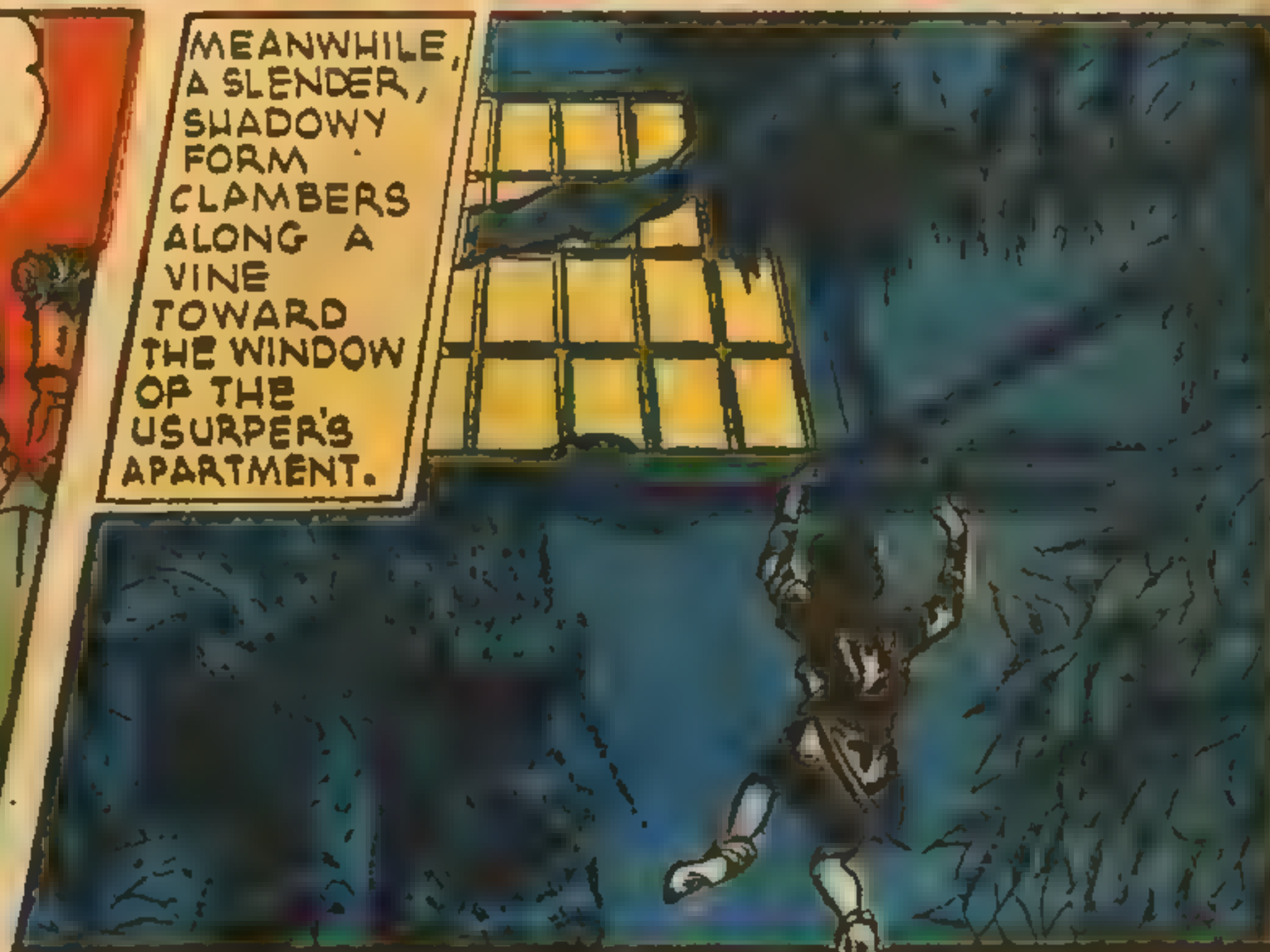
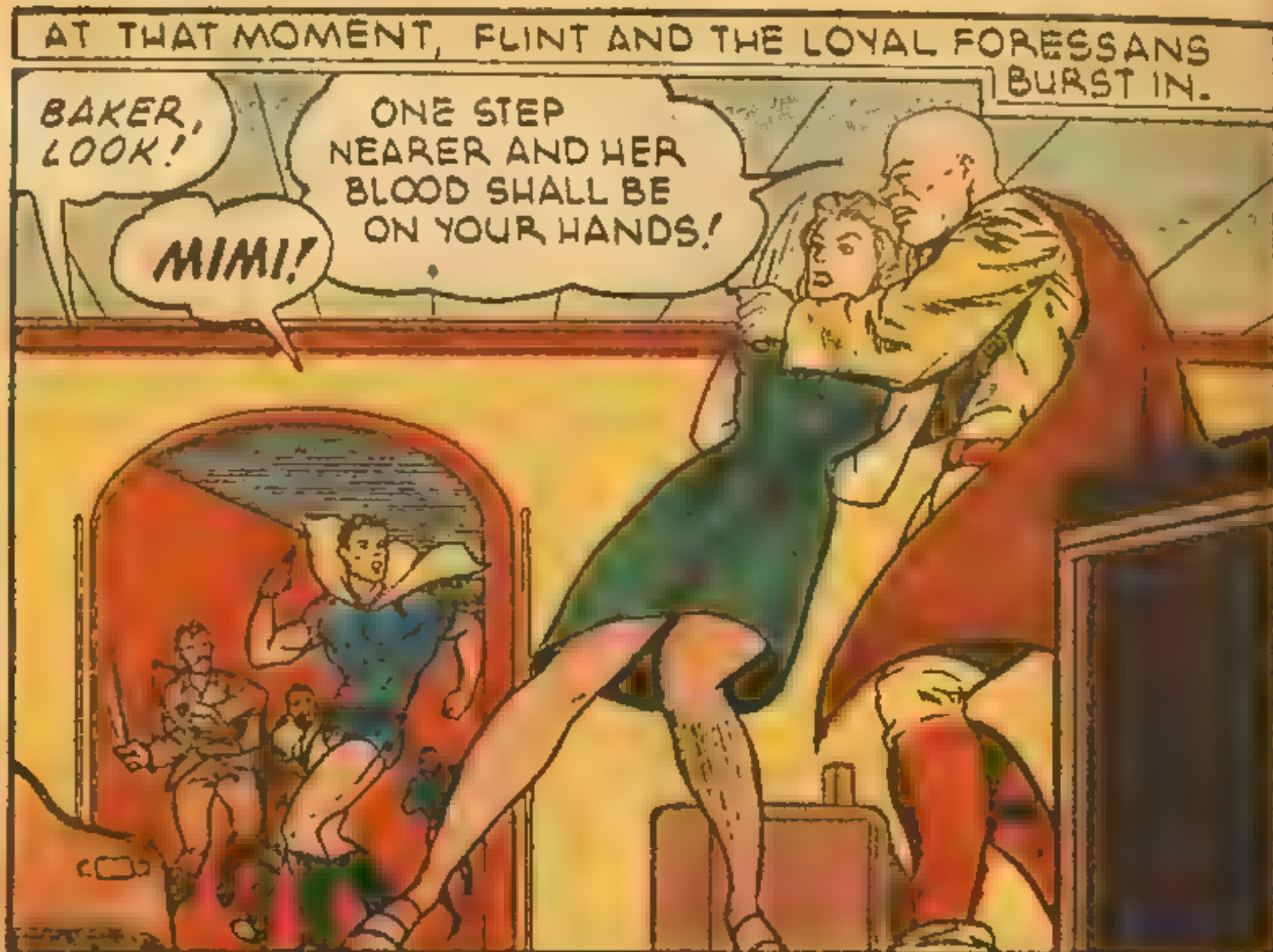
MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE...

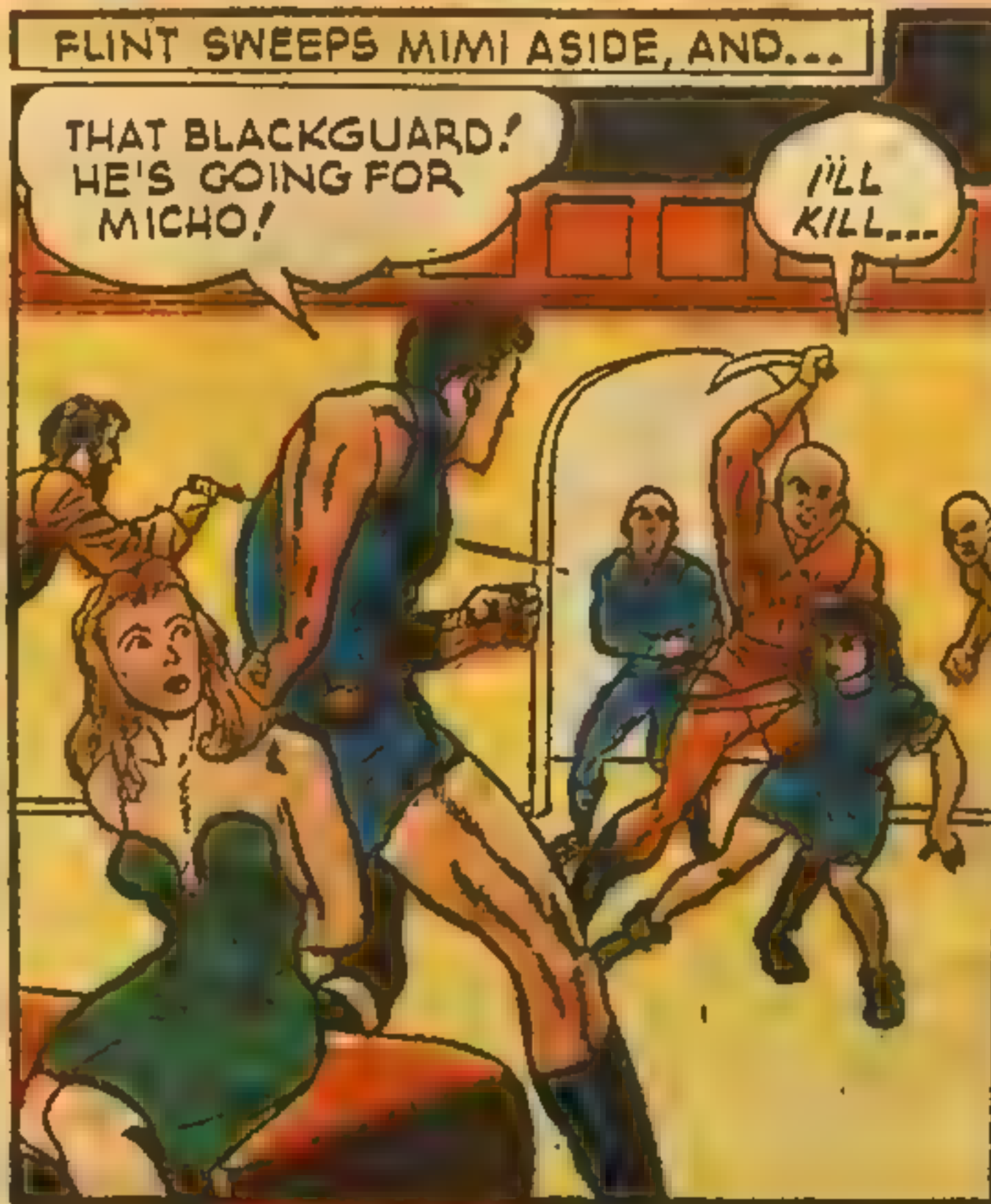
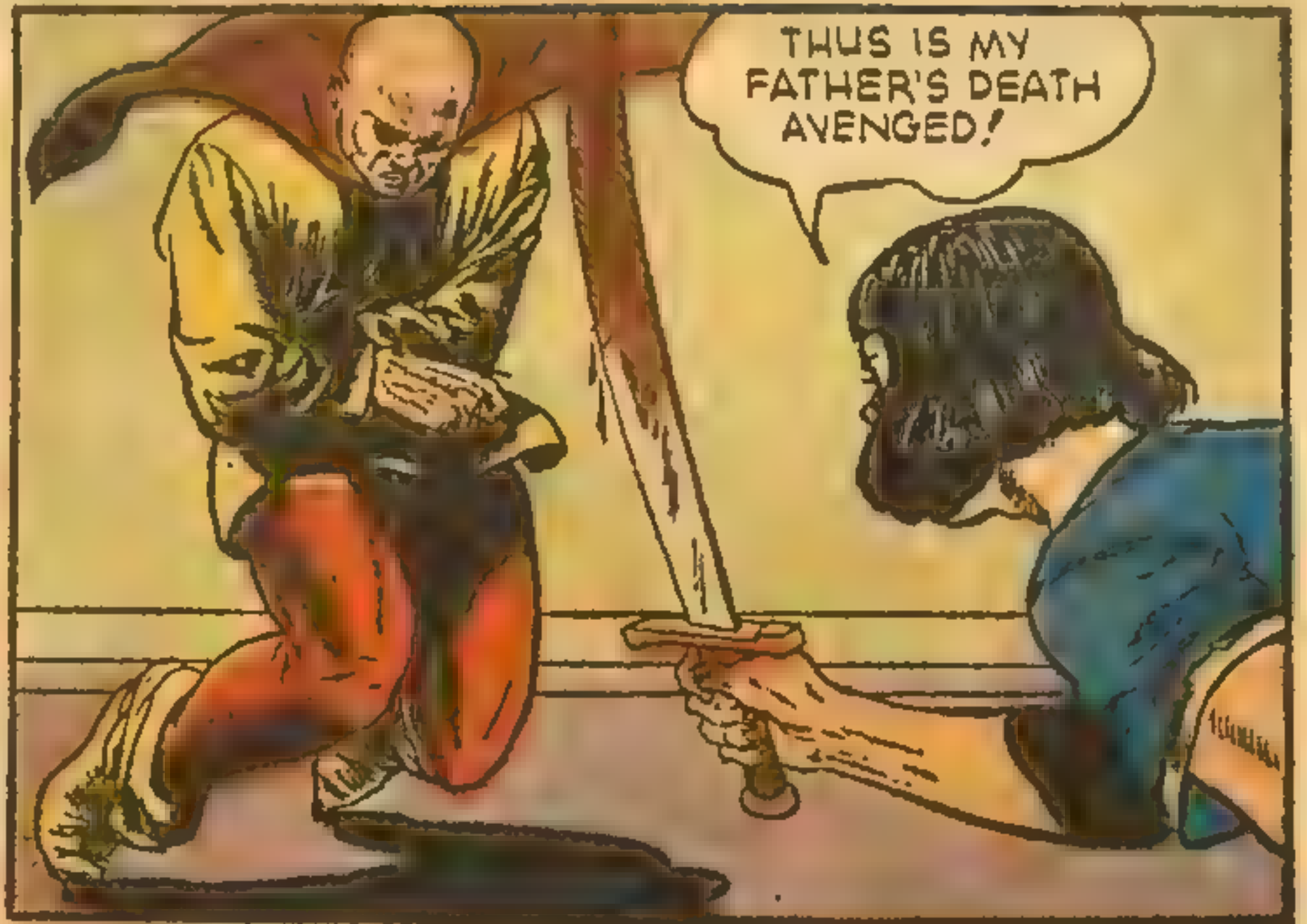
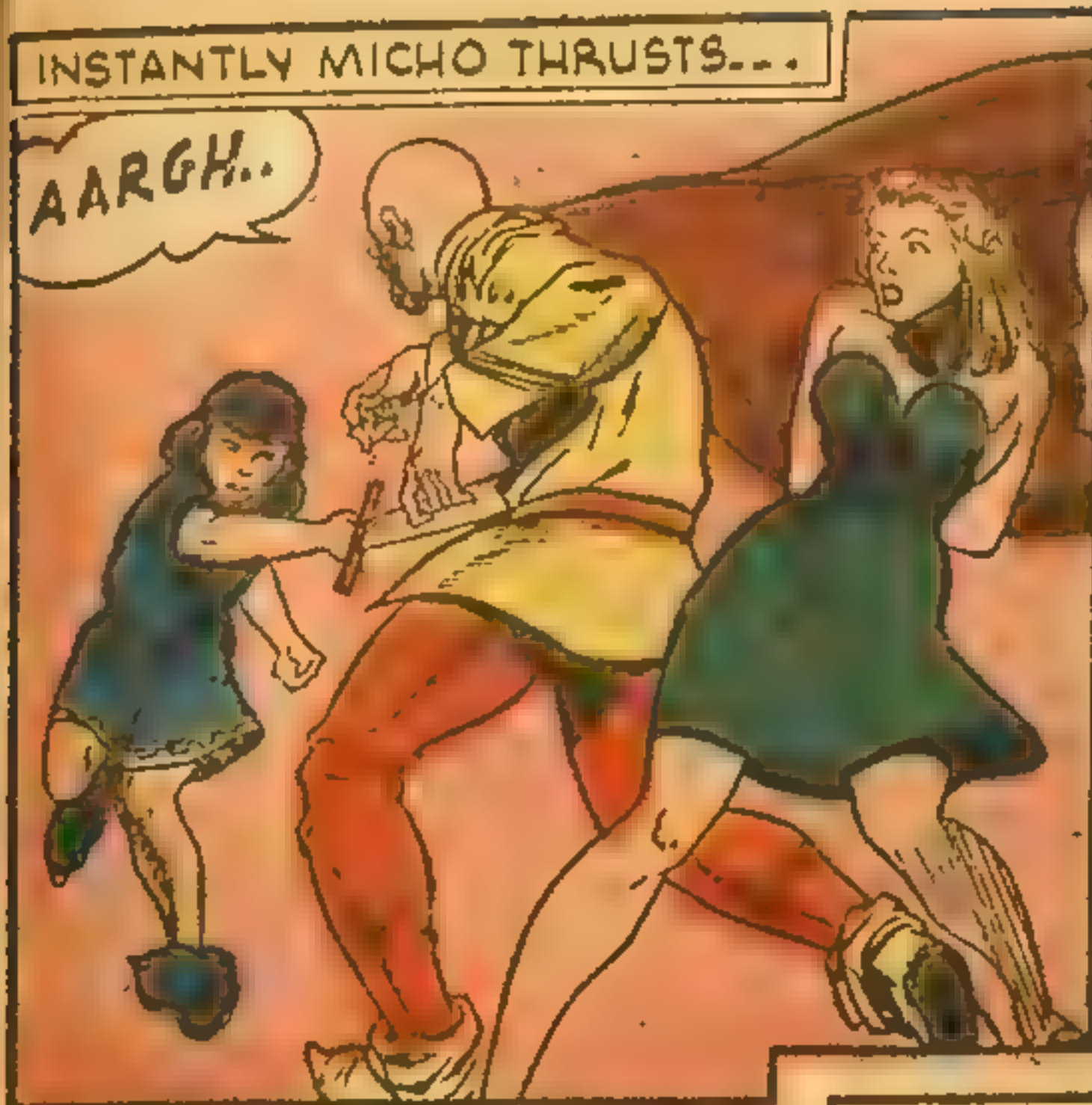


AS MIMI IS BOUND, THE SERVANT WHISPERS...





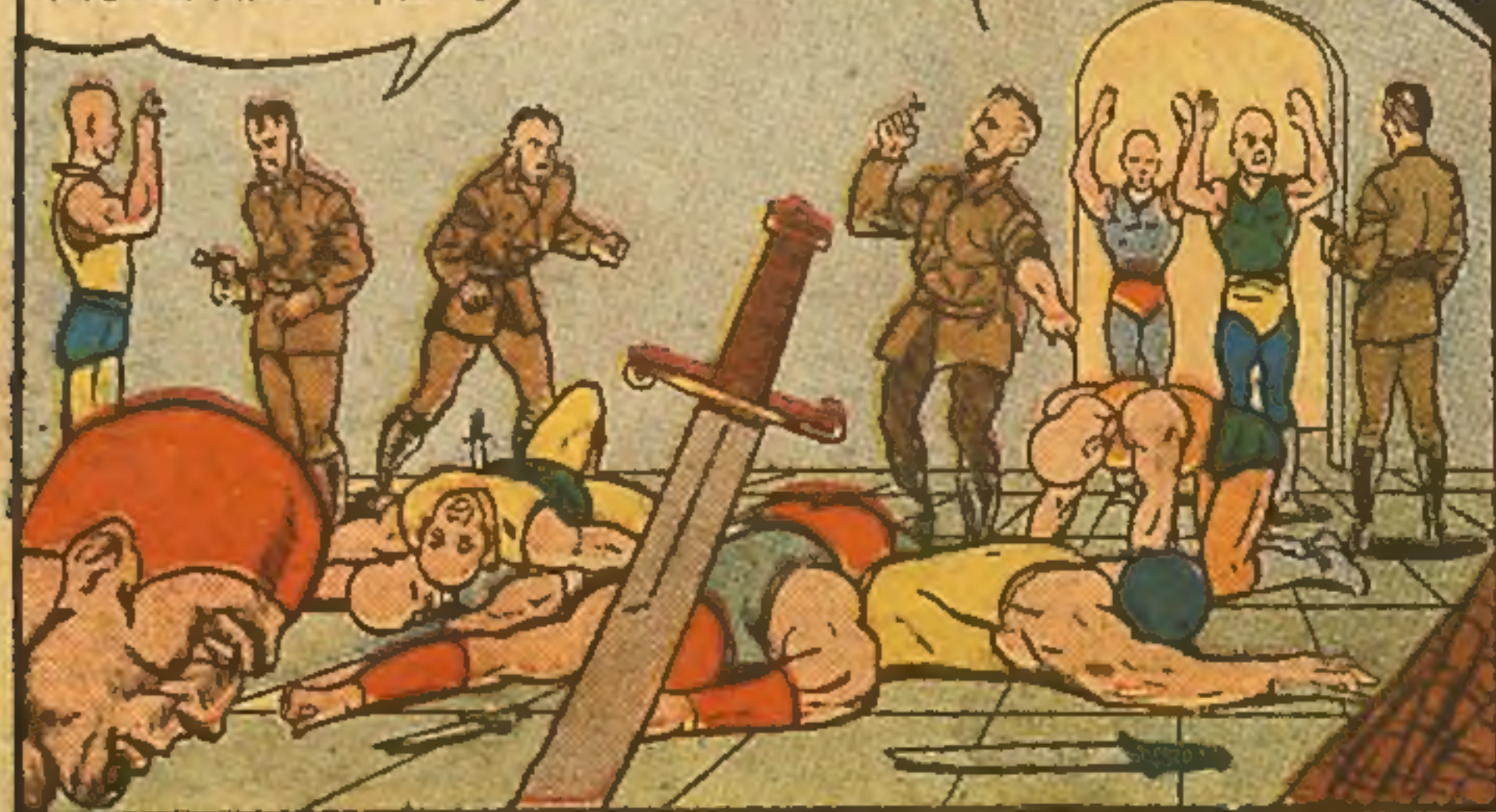




WHEN SWORDS AND RAY GUNS HAVE CEASED TO FLASH, THOSE OF TOLGAMO'S MEN NOT DEAD HAVE BEEN MADE PRISONERS.

AND THEY'LL BE PUT WHERE THEY CAN DO NO MORE HARM, EH?

HERE'S ANOTHER STILL ALIVE!



WE OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO YOUNG MICHIO, EH, FLINT?

YES, AND HE'S NEXT IN LINE TO THE FORESSAN THRONE.

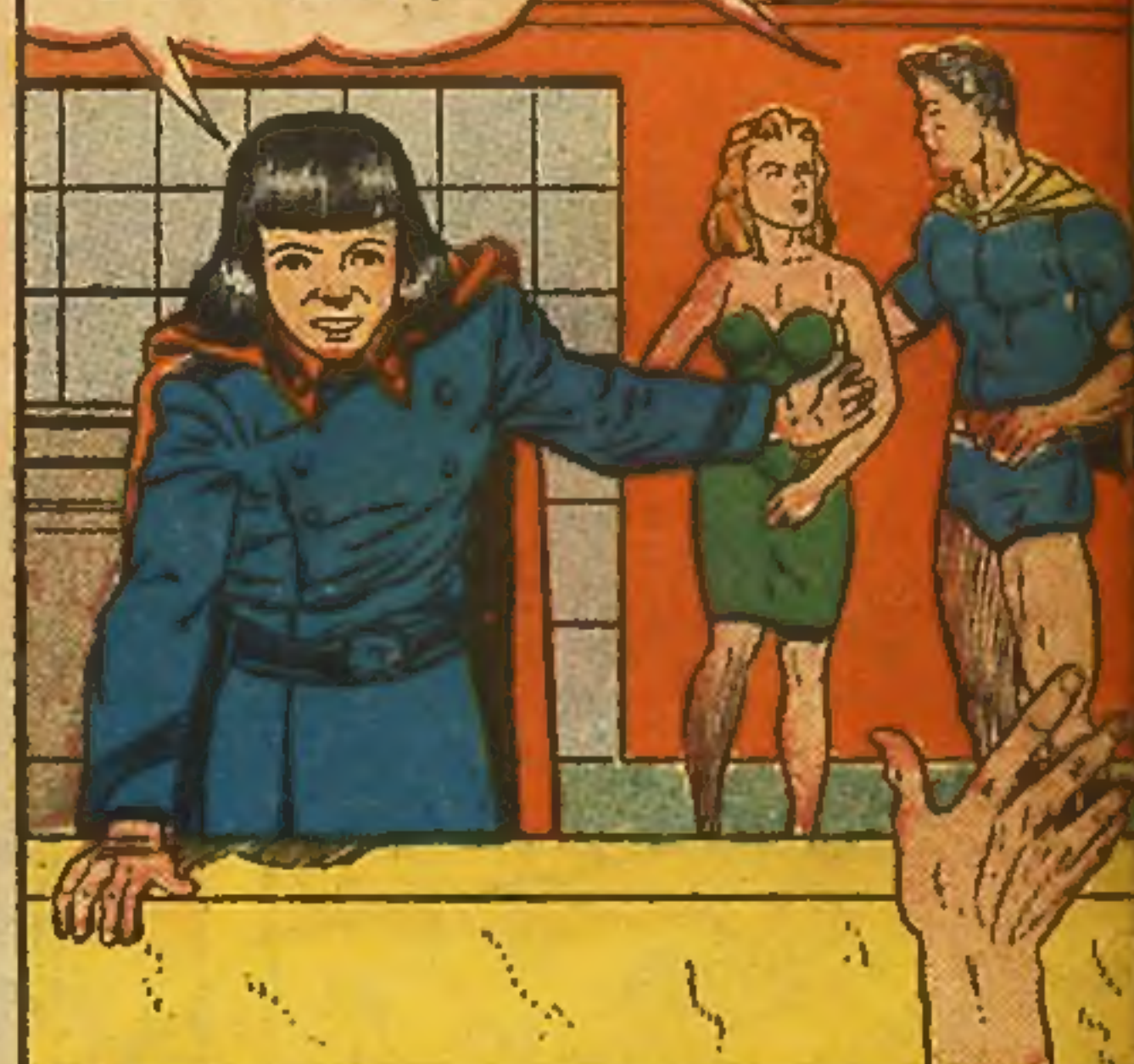


AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY IN AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY, MICHIO IS MADE KING OF THE TREE KINGDOM.



...AND, MY SUBJECTS, WE OWE A GREATER DEBT TO THE EARTHMAN THAN WE CAN REPAY!

COME, MIMI, THAT'S OUR CUE TO GET OUT OF HERE!



LATER, THE ROGUE STAR SOARS INTO OUTER SPACE, HEADING FOR HOME, BUT FLINT AND MIMI WILL BE BACK IN THE NEXT
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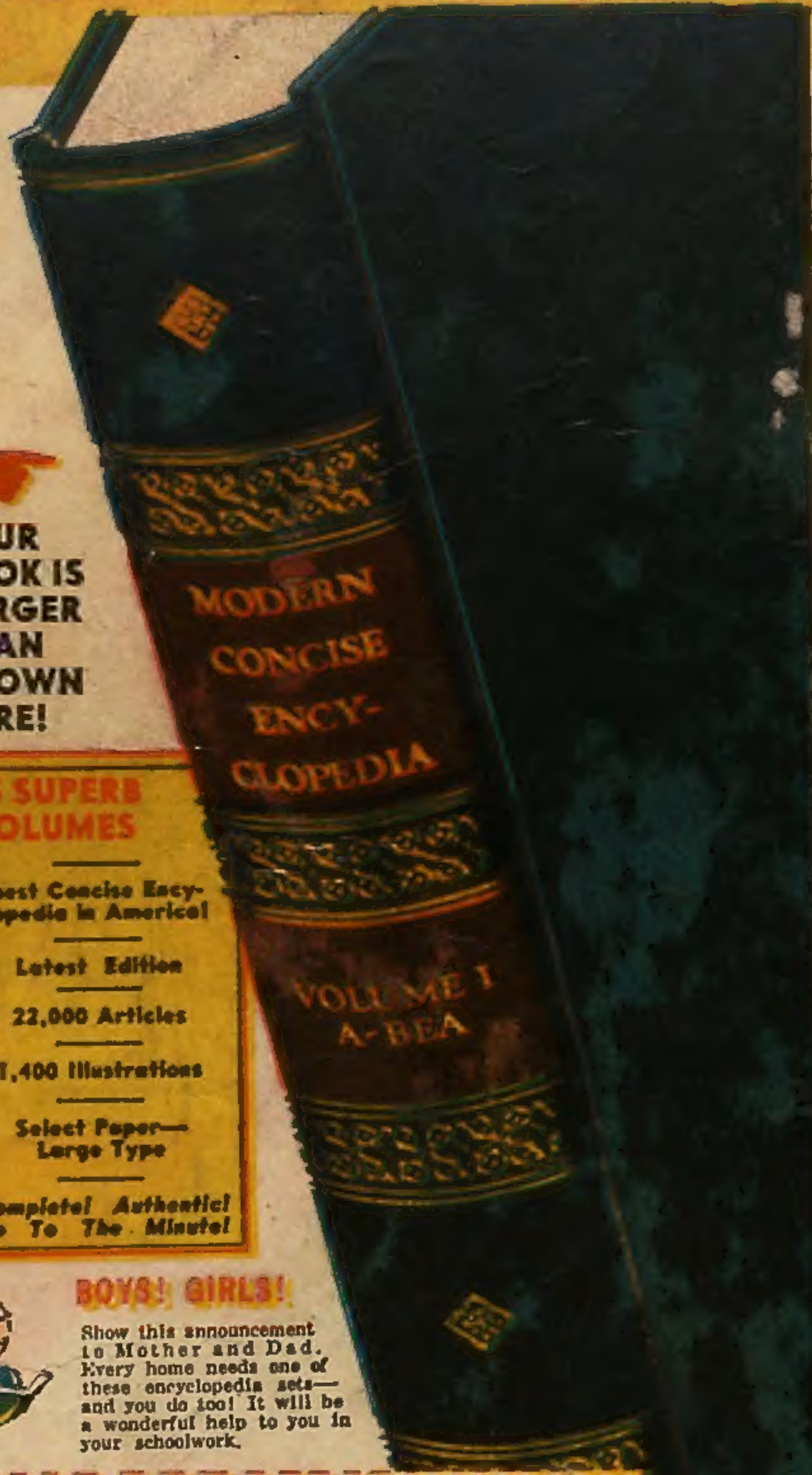
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